People came to Jesus. 'Do you know what Pilate ✵ has done?' they asked. 'People from Galilee were worshipping and they were killed.'

'Why do you think this happened?' Jesus asked. 'Do you think they were more sinful than you? And what about when the tower of Siloam collapsed, killing 18 people?' he said. 'Were those people any worse than you? No!'

Everyone looked surprised. What did Jesus mean? Jesus explained, 'Those people were not killed because they were worse sinners than others. Everyone needs to repent ✵ and turn to God. You need to repent and turn to God. Because if you do not, you will die unprepared, just like the people you have told me about.'

Then Jesus went on to tell a parable. ✵ A man planted a fig tree in his vineyard. Each year the man came to the tree, hoping to find fruit growing there. But each year there was none. After three years with no fruit, the man said to his gardener, 'Chop down the tree. I have been

looking for figs for three years, but none have grown. I am not wasting the soil any more. Cut it down!'

But the gardener disagreed, and he said, 'Let's leave it for one more year. I will dig round it and put manure on it. If the tree produces fruit next year, that will be good. If it doesn't, then you can cut the tree down.'

Luke 13.1-9

✵ See *Share the Word*.