Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Indiscriminate Happenings   <u>Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time</u>   <u>Saturday,</u>
October 25, 2014   8:15 AM   Eph 4:7-16;   **Lk 13:1-9**   (BVM)   (Although God is a
caring God and although he tries to cultivate life everywhere and help all living things bear
the fruit for which they are created, eventually if they don't, they are cut down.)

   "If not you can cut it down."

   Today's gospel reading has two parts to it. The first is commentary on people's
superstitions. That's how **Jesus evaluates people's way of thinking: it's a superstition.** The
ideas is this: that when bad things happen, it's because somehow the victims were greater
sinners than others. So the bad events of life, forms of judgment—**God is knocking down
people who deserve to be knocked down. Jesus considers this a superstition.** He says,
"By no means! Do you think they were worse than everybody else? By no means!" Then he
talks about an accident that takes place where a tower fell and killed some eighteen people.
Chosen by God for this? "By no means!" Worse than everybody else? No, **no bad things
happen in this world and so do good things; and they happen to everyone in a way
indiscriminately.** The sun shines on everybody; the rain falls on everyone's land, good and
bad. Why? Because **God wants to bless everybody.**

   That doesn't mean everyone bears fruit however. That's the second part. Not
everyone appreciates this. **Not everyone receives the blessings God intends for everyone.**
Oh the sun may shine on them, but they may not actually experience the light. They may
have their own inner clouds blocking their appreciation of the warmth and the light of the
sun. Oh the rain may fall on their garden, but then maybe it just promotes weeds if that's
what their garden has. Eventually, **although God is a caring God and although he tries to
cultivate life everywhere and help all living things bear the fruit for which they are
created, eventually if they don't, they are cut down. That's the judgment of God: the
cutting down at the end, not what happens on the way.**