Changing For The Better

Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Immediate change? ***And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. [Acts 2:40]***

***[Luke 17:3-4]*** ***take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day and turns to you seven times, and says, I repent, you must forgive him.***

Judas had remorse: ***[Matthew 27:3-5]*** ***When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the 30 pieces of silver to the chiefs and the elders, saying, “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.***

The people of the city of Nineveh: ***(Jonah 3) {4} And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" {5} So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them… {10} Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.***

***[Matthew 21:28-32]***  ***A man had 2 sons; and he came to the first and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; bur afterward he repented and went. The father said likewise to the second, and he said, I go, sir; but he did not go. Which one of the sons do you suppose did the will of his father?***

**reasons why people are impenitent (unwilling to change)**

1. The Pleasures of sin: ***[Hebrews 11:24-25]*** ***by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin***
2. Addicted to sin: ***[Romans 6:16]*** ***don’t you know that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness***
3. Friendship with the world: ***[James 4:4]*** ***don’t you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***

**what can we do to help?**

Use our influence for persuasion: ***[2 Corinthians 5:11]*** ***knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God...***

TRY without taking a thought about what they may think about us: ***[John 12: 42-43]*** ***Many of the authorities believed on him (Jesus), but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.***

Don’t be afraid of failure: ***[Matthew 11:20-21]*** ***Then He began to upbraid the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.***

***Speak the truth in love*** ***[Ephesians 4:15]***

Teach the goodness of God toward the sinner: ***[Romans 2:4]*** ***Do you presume upon the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Don’t you know that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*** Never compromise the truth.

Point out warnings from the Gospel: ***[John 8:21]*** ***Jesus said unto them, I go my way and you shall seek me, and shall die in your sins. --- [Mark 16:16]*** ***He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believes not shall be damned. ---- (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, {8} in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,***