

## ***How Will We Respond to Tragedy?***

**10-17-10**

### **Scripture Reading - 2 Samuel 12:16-23**

Take a one week break from our series to tell you an AMAZING story of God's faithfulness this past week.

The plan

- Tell the story
- Then praise the Lord

My hope is that this story will...

- Encourage you
- Increase your faith
- Get you thinking about this important question...

### **How will you respond to tragedy when it touches your life?**

- Not if... WHEN
- ESPECIALLY if you are a follower of Jesus
  - o Acts 14:22
    - Paul and Barnabas first missionary journey
    - Preaching Gospel making many disciples
    - Paul recently stoned, left for dead in Lystra
    - Acts 14:21-22 (ESV)  
<sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city (Derbe - fled to - 60 mi.) and had made many disciples, they returned to *Lystra* and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*
  - o John 16:33
    - Disciples are about to face their greatest trial
    - John 16:28-33 (ESV)  
<sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." <sup>29</sup>His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we know that you know all things

and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. *In the world you will have tribulation.* But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- Three responses to tragedy
  - o Remove God
    - God doesn't exist
    - God doesn't care (hands off)
  - o Blame God
    - God is in it, God isn't good
    - Turn away from Him
  - o Trust God
    - God is in it, God is good
    - Turn to Him

### **Got the news**

- 9:00 a.m. Friday morning
- Why me?
- Immediately began to think and pray
  - o I was SCARED
    - What will I say?
    - *What if she didn't know the Lord?*
  - o How will we respond?
    - The word God gave me along with some other verses

### **Get to hospital**

- "She can't die! She can't go to hell!"
- A chance to pray
  - o God's grace - I'm alone
  - o Shared Gospel
  - o Prayed for healing

- Good friends
- Good counselors
  - Encouraged me to share the Word and pray

## **Good Word**

### Hope in the midst of tragedy - Lamentations 3:21-26, 31-32

- Lamentations 3:21-32 (ESV)
 

<sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." <sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord... <sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not cast off forever, <sup>32</sup> *but, though he cause grief*, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

### Is suicide an unforgiveable sin? - Matthew 12:31

- Matthew 12:31-32 (ESV)
 

<sup>31</sup> Therefore I tell you, *every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people*, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
- Why teach it is unforgivable (my thoughts)?
  - MAJOR SIN - not only murder but self murder
  - Can't be repented of
  - In order to discourage it amongst Christians
    - Especially centuries ago

### Last minute conversions are possible - Luke 23:43

- Luke 23:43 (ESV)
 

<sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

### It's faith in Jesus that saves - John 3:16

- John 3:16 (NIV)  
<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

#### God works ALL things for good – Romans 8:28

- Romans 8:28 (NIV)  
 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

#### Jesus will give you rest – Matthew 11:28-30

- Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)  
<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

#### A plan like David's – 2 Samuel 12:16-23

- 2 Samuel 12:21-23 (ESV)  
<sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." <sup>22</sup> He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' <sup>23</sup> But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."
- Prayer recruits

#### **The next day**

- A glimmer of hope
- More good friends and counselors
- The plan – 36 to 48 hours
- 11:30 a.m. I left still pleading but still planning her funeral

#### **She opened her eyes!!!**

- Text at 12:55 p.m.
- Cautious optimism on the way down
- Seems to be true (3:15 p.m.)

- o Friend – big improvement from 12 to 2:30 p.m.
- I can't believe it!!! (mom)
  - o "I fainted"
- Seeing is believing (for me)
  - o 4:00 p.m. visit
  - o Breathing tube out eating ice chunks
- We need to see too (her friends)
- That's where we stand

### **Keep praying**

- Full recovery (short term memory)
- To God be the glory (experimental treatment)
- Faith (those who believe and those who don't)

### **How will we respond to tragedy?**

- "I'll never be angry at God."
- "I believe everything your saying."
- "I need you guys to pray for me."
- "God's will be done, but I want my daughter to live."