

Où est Dieu?

(Luke 13:1-5)

Every catastrophe, calamity, disaster and tragedy everywhere shows us the dreadful experiences of pain and sorrow and suffering and death. Tragedies can strike quickly at any time, and when done, they leave us with sobering questions like; “Where is God all these times?” or “If God is good, how could He allow this to happen?” or “If God is a powerful God why didn’t He stop this tragedy?”

Out of their superiority complex as God’s chosen people, the Jews believed that calamities or tragedies are God’s way of punishing people more evil than they (Job 4:7; John 9:1-2).

God however has a different outlook of these unfortunate events. From this text, our Lord Jesus teaches us three fundamental truths about tragedies:

1. *Tragedies happen as part of God’s _____ upon man’s _____.*

While talking about God’s judgment, some people interrupted Jesus in verse 1, saying, “What about those Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices?” The Lord responded by correcting their wrong belief (that people who suffer tragedies are the worst of sinners), saying that they are no better than these Galileans. Tragedies are ordained by God (Job 36:32,33; Isa. 47:7; Amos 3:6; 4:10; Rev. 16:9) and people die because of the curse of sin (Ezek. 18:4,20 Rom 5:12, 21; 6:23).

2. *Tragedies are God’s _____ man’s _____.*

Lives are taken by every day disasters, testifying to the universal truth that life is very frail and fragile. Life is frail and short (Psalm 103:15; 144:4; 1 Pet. 1:24; James 4:14; Job 7:7,16; 14:1). That’s why the Psalmist says in Psalm 39:4, “Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more.”(cf. Job 8:9). Tragic events should immediately direct us to ask the spiritual state of our souls, making sure that we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

3. *Tragedies serve as God’s _____ to man’s true _____.*

The Lord Jesus finally points his listeners to the true tragedy (v. 3,5) saying, “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” The real calamity is that if you don’t repent, when death comes you will perish (Heb. 9:27). True repentance and true faith are inseparable (Acts 11:18; 26:20). Salvation is linked with repentance and faith (John 3:16; Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21).

Are the tragedies and calamities that are going on around us teaching us that only bad people die? Jesus says ‘**No.**’ We are all sinners deserving of God’s judgment; but God is gracious and His kindness should cause us to repent; otherwise we will likewise perish.

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” – Romans 2:4