

“RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY”

SERMON NOTES

Various Scriptures

We hear about mass shootings with greater & greater regularity. Think about all the incidents you heard about over the last 20 years, even just the last 5 years.

1. How Could God _____? Why God? (Ps 10; 13)

David asked the same questions.

Daniel Wallace – “Atheists & saints are both often ‘born’ in the aftermath of a tragedy.”

The great debate centers on two attributes of God: _____ & _____

How we process tragedy is crucial...

Option #1 –

Option #2 –

God is good (Ps 34:8; 119:68)

God is sovereign (Job 42:2; Col 1:16-17)

God does not change (Num 23:19; Mal 3:6; 2 Tim 2:13; Heb 13:8; Jas 1:17)

What’s the conclusion from option #2?

Tragedies....

God is not the direct cause of evil (Isa 6:3; Ps 5:4; 45:7; Jas 1:13; 1 Jn 1:5)

Satan causes evil but must get permission from God (Job 1-2)

Our sin has consequences which is the trouble we experience (Rom 1)

Where are we left as we process this? One word: _____

See Ps 10 & 13. Rom 11:33-36

2. Keep the Gospel Central (Titus 2:11-15)

v. 12 – “It trains us...” = the gospel is _____.

v. 14 – “He gave himself...” = in Christ we find _____.

As we share with others, keep in mind:

- a) People may not be ready to receive the Word.
- b) Trauma has a profound effect on the mind & emotions.
- c) Give people time to react.
- d) Don't underestimate the ministry of presence.
- e) Be guided by the Spirit & choose appropriate passages of Scripture.

EIGHT THOUGHTS & ADVICE IN PROCESSING MASS SHOOTINGS & MINISTERING TO PEOPLE

1. Hurting people _____ people.

2. The shooters tend to be _____ or worse have terrible fathers.

See Ps 34:17-18; Mt 6:25-34; Jn 3:16; 2 Cor 1:3-4

3. The survivors of the shooter/ing will have to _____ with guilt, false guilt, shame, etc.

Survivor of Shooter (family) –

Survivor of Shooting (incident) –

4. Shooters often have a _____ against society.

5. Victims (who die) _____ saw it coming until it happened.

6. Survivors (victims' families, non-fatally injured, etc.) will need to _____ somebody who is mostly likely in hell.

See Mt 6:14-15; Col 3:13

“Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin.”

7. Christians involved may be given a _____.

See Eph 5:15-17; 2 Cor 5:11-22

8. People may ask: “Where is God?” The _____ is God hates this.

See Ps 11:5