

WEEK # 1

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 1 TRAGEDIES – WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

(from Gospel of Luke Volume II)

Read Luke 13:1-9

Introductory Comments

Many times in our study of the Bible I think, “Jesus you’ve said it all.” Then I read Luke 13:1-9 which deals with the very painful subject of Tragedies. Jesus doesn’t just face the subject, He gives solid, workable **answers** to some of the most piercing questions any human being has ever asked.

I personally have experiencing great pain in my life. That’s not something so special. That’s not really what a tragedy is. 99% of the time, the great pain was a direct consequence of some foolish action on my part.

Key Concept

_____ and _____

When you have that clear line, the pain is more bearable.

You know why it happened. (Examples)

A tragedy is not
where there is a clear direct line of some action you took and a direct effect.

The repercussions when you don’t have cause and effect is the humongous word:

_____ ?

The mark of a tragedy is you don’t know why it happened to you.

Examples from Luke 13:1-9

1. The Galileans.
2. The tower in Siloam.

* Pastor John’s personal story of tragedy *

If I had known 4 years ago about Luke 13:1-9, it would have made a huge difference in my life.

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Two Warnings

1. If you've never had a tragedy, probably the people on both sides of you have. Be sensitive and tender and don't be flippant.
2. If you have had a tragedy, you _____ the answers Jesus gives. They are truth, and if you hunger for truth they are incredibly comforting.

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Five Questions That Everyone In a Tragedy Asks

1 – “What did _____?”

Sometimes this is a _____ question. This is the very first question Jesus deals with. Look at **Verse 2** and **Verse 4**. In Verse 3 and Verse 5 He says it very clearly:

“I tell you _____!”

The way Jesus handles this is as important as the question itself. When you get in a tragedy, this question can consume you. (Example) Logic goes out the window when you ask this question. Jesus dealt with this question very tersely. He just dismissed it. If you ask Jesus what did you do wrong, the answer is: _____.

2 – “_____ did this happen?”

Because _____.

Notice how much Jesus talks about sin. His focus is not on an individual sin (cause and effect). It's not an individual thing you did. It's not question 1. But notice how much He talks about **all** sin. **Verse 2, 4**

Adam and Eve had authority over this planet. (Example of car and teenage daughter). God turned authority to Adam and Eve. When they gave in to Satan, they turned power and authority and control of this planet over to sin and to Satan.

The Word of God says this is Satan's planet. He rules it and he will always will rule it (1 John 5:19). God will never redeem this planet. One day He will burn it up. Everything on this planet is under a curse of sin.

The connection Jesus makes is really quite simple. The only problem is we don't want to hear it.

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3 – “Why doesn’t God _____ it?”

The answer is: _____.

One day the Father will turn to the Son and say, “I’ve had enough!” But understand this: He is a **just** God and must do it across the board. In order to remove all the pain, He’s got to remove all the sin. And to remove all the sin, He’s got to remove all the _____. He waits until the last minute that maybe one more can be saved.

To those who ask, “How could a good God allow this?”, there is an answer but they won’t like it. Yes God could cleanse this earth of sin, but to do it He must cleanse this earth of sinners. How would you come out in that tactical maneuver?

**** TOUGHEST ONE ****

(NOTE: **Keep listening** for a clarification of this point)

4 – “I didn’t _____ this!”

Jesus doesn’t speak platitudes. He speaks the truth. **Verses 2 – 5**. In the same sentence that He answered question #1, “You did nothing wrong”, He answers the statement, “I didn’t deserve this.”

The answer is: _____.

No one will ever be able to stand before God and accuse Him of being unjust and that they got worse than they deserve. The root is “God, you’re unjust”. What Jesus said was, “You didn’t do anything wrong to cause this, but you still deserved it. Everyone here deserved that and worse.” You never got less than you deserve. If you’re smart, you get under the blood of Jesus so you get less than you deserve.

**** Important Clarification That Was Added to Explain This Point ****

- I felt like this was not a very well stated point.
- **Main emphasis** – you can’t rail against God and no one can shake their fist against God and claim that God was _____.
- **Balance** - even though it’s true that none of us get as bad as we deserve (we all deserve hell, and only by the mercy and grace of God do we not get a severe judgment), the balance is that it **wasn’t God’s desire** for you to go through this tragedy.
- **Jeremiah 29:11** – although God’s not unjust and we can never blame Him, God hurts terribly for you. Only because God has given man free will, and therefore has to give man freedom to hurt man, that’s why it happened.
- It wasn’t God’s desire for those things to happen. He’s not happy that those things happened. His desire is to heal you out of those things and set you free.

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5 – “What do I do with all this pain, anguish, and emotion?”

Look at **verse 6**. First word: “_____”.

“A man had a fig tree.” A fig tree bore fruit 10 months out of 12. It was an honored tree. (Description of how the fig tree bore fruit). Our only reason that we are on this earth is to _____ for Jesus Christ.

Verse 8 – when you want to get a fig tree bearing fruit, you normally just fertilize the tree. But they did something more: they dug around it. That tree couldn’t comprehend what was happening. Who’s the tree? Us. All that tree knew was that it was comfortable. All of that dirt represented comfort zone. All of a sudden, here comes this man with a shovel, digging and ripping away his comfort zone. That’s what a tragedy does, it removes the comfort zone and exposes your roots. What else does it say they did?

Fertilize - two Greek words combined together:

1. To throw to the ground or cast down.
2. Dung. A crude word, the filthiest refuse of this world. The root word is a Greek word meaning: to _____, to _____, or to cause to _____ or _____.

This tree had a tragedy. It’s roots were exposed, it’s comfort zone was ripped away and exposed. Then filth, excrement, dung were cast upon the very roots of it’s existence.

What was the only proper response of that tree?

Bear fruit.

* Testimony of how John handled his tragedy *

The bottom line in a tragedy is what do I do with all this pain? There’s only one answer: you say, “Jesus my only reason for living is to give glory to You. Please bear fruit in my life through this.” And all the goodness of God is there for you.

WEEK # 1 CON'T

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 1
TRAGEDIES – WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) Discuss any tragedies you have experienced in your life that you feel comfortable sharing, and how you handled it at the time. _____

2) What are one or two truths about dealing with tragedies that you learned in this teaching which were most helpful to you? _____

3) How can bearing fruit help you deal with the pain of tragedy? _____

WEEK # 2

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 2 THE HUMAN NEED TO GRIEVE & MOURN

(from Bible Survey Volume II)

I. Grieving is _____ complaining.

- **Complaining** is _____ (God wronged me, you wronged me, etc).
- **Grieving** is simply saying three words: “_____, _____”.
- **Lamentations 3:39** – he says, “I’m not complaining!”

II. The most grieving anyone can handle is _____.

- Those of you who’ve never been healed of sorrow from loss, do you know why you run from grieving? They’re afraid of the _____.
- Grieving is so painful that you feel like you’re going to die.
- One of the things you must know if you want to have successful grieving, is you must **shrink time**.
- The one thing you never permit yourself to ask yourself in the middle of grieving is you never look forward weeks and months and say, “God, How long will this pain go on?”
- You say, “God, get me through _____”.
- Grieving people understand that you live in today. There are things about God that you’ll learn in grieving that you’ll not learn anywhere else. Today, and only today is there grace.
- **Lamentations 3:22-23**

III. Grieving builds _____.

- There is life in grieving. There is a presence of God in grieving.
- When, because of fear, you bury the pain, what you’re really saying is, “God, I don’t really believe you can heal me of this.”
- True grieving really has two sentences. The first is ‘God, it hurts’ and the second is “_____”. There is such a faith release in pain.
- **Lamentations 3:21-27** – what is the yoke? The yoke of **grief**.

WEEK # 2 CON'T

Mature Vs Immature Christians

- **Two Verses** – 1 Corinthians 2:10 and Hebrews 4:13
- There's a **maturity point** that comes for Christians. They begin to realize that the minute you walk into a worship service, the Holy Spirit says, "Anything in the basement comes into the living room." (Examples)
- There is a line of demarcation. **Mature Christians** go: "Man, the minute you come into the presence of the Holy Spirit, He says, 'I want everything open'."
- **Immature Christians** go, "Man, the minute I started worshipping I felt worse, so I quit." Not smart!
- ** Discussion About GriefShare **

Lamentations is the most _____ book in the Bible.

Chapter	Number of Verses	Sentences Per Verse	Total Number of Sentences
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

In Lamentations, we're told that the first grieving time is not all there is.

When someone grieves, they say "Well how long will I grieve?" People who have never grieved think that you grieve, and it's over. Lamentations says, "No, the first grieving will almost overwhelm you", then the season of grieving will pass.

Here's the bad/good news: it will come back again. There will be another season of grieving that will be just as intense as the first one. Then it will begin to fade. Then it will come back yet a third time and it hurts just as bad as it did the first time. You begin to say, "God I can't make it". Then it begins to fade. Then it comes back yet a fourth time, but for the first time it begins to lesson. Then it fades again, and then it comes back yet another time and this time you go, "Ok, I can make it."

Chapters 1 – 4 are acrostic poems. **Chapter 5** is freelance. Why?

Because when you are grieving, you need people to

WEEK # 2 CON'T

Examples from GriefShare Manual

- Other may attempt to _____ your grief.
- Grief does not follow a _____ route. (Examples)
- Difference between men and women: women naturally express emotions. Men need to be in control and are uncomfortable expressing emotions.
 - ⇒ For men, the first part of grief is to say, "I am _____".
 - ⇒ In the 1800's, men who cried were considered extra strong. In our society to admit you're hurting is to admit weakness.
 - ⇒ (Examples of dealing with grief)
 - ⇒ To acknowledge and understand your grief, for men, is the hardest part.
- (More comments on topics in the manual)

Give the Holy Spirit permission
to dig in your soul
and show you areas of sorrow that you've buried
and never asked God to begin a healing process.

WEEK # 2 CON'T

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 2
THE HUMAN NEED TO GRIEVE & MOURN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) How would you describe the difference in grieving and complaining? _____

2) How can the attitude, "God get me through today" help you to deal with grief? _____

3) How can grieving build your faith? _____

WEEK # 3

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 3 THE FRUIT OF SUFFERING

(from Bible Survey Volume II)

Prologue – Celebrate Jamaica

- Revelation 7:9
- Question: how did John know they were from every nation, every tongue, every tribe, and every language? Probably you will have Asian traits if you're Asian in heaven. African, Middle Eastern, White European, etc.
- There's a possibility that you'll speak in different languages in heaven (but everyone will understand each other).
- That means there is something very heavenly about each of our indigenous cultures. There's something of Christ in that culture.
- Which countries on the earth are the most dominantly Christian? United States, Korea, Argentina, Jamaica.
- Story of John and Beth's trip to Jamaica
- Facts about Jamaica

The Book of Daniel

- The book of slavery – a young Jewish boy being told his culture will be eradicated, his God will be eradicated, and he will submit and become a Babylonian.
- To love the Word of God is to love multiculturalism. Is there anything in the Bible that is American? Not a thing.
- More facts about US and Jamaican history

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3 Points

1. Faith builds over a _____. (Example of Jamaica). In the Bible, we look at the summation of things. God puts seeds in you, and you may or may not see the fulfillment of it in your lifetime. (Example of the wealth of the Jewish people). Daniel's whole heart was to see the nation of Israel survive and even survive and return. He died having not seen the fulfillment, yet it happened.
2. _____ is a part of life.
3. Bringing suffering to Jesus releases special _____.

Daniel 1:11

- Numerology is not a defined science. It's clear that 3, 6, 7, and 12 have strong irrefutable significance. Other numbers may or may not have significance.
- One number that has clear significance is the number 10. The number 10 stands for a _____ that has been _____.
- Examples: Jacob, Job, Church of Smyrna
- It's not insignificant that Daniel said, "Test us for 10 days".

WEEK # 3 CON'T

Daniel 1:14

- To these four young men, God gave knowledge and understanding. It is clearly implied that this was because they had suffered to the place of completion.
- God pours out special gifts that would not have been in your life had you not suffered.

Suffering

- Story about Suffering
- The people who wail the loudest when they suffer are actually the people who have suffered the _____.
- We have an aversion to scriptures on suffering.
- Story of John's Mother in Law who took her suffering to Christ
- 99% of the compassion you have for another person came only because at times you have suffered.

Daniel 1:20

- God gave these young men all kinds of knowledge.
- The king found them _____ than all the magicians.
- The amount of suffering you go through, ten times the gifts that you would have had in your life **if** you bring the suffering to Christ.

More Stories of Suffering, Race, and Culture in Jamaica

- Christians in Jamaica picking the Jamaican flag
- Facts from Race and Culture: A Worldview
- Slavery in Jamaica
- Richness of Family in Jamaica
- Jamaican Music

WEEK # 3 CON'T

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 3

THE FRUIT OF SUFFERING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) "Faith builds over a lifetime". How have you seen this principle operate in your life? _____

2) How do you handle times of suffering? What did you learn about suffering from this sermon? _____

WEEK # 4

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 4

NO REGRETS

(from I Samuel Volume I)

Comments on I Samuel 16:1

- A human being mourned longer than God mourned! God came to the place where he said, “Enough mourning”!
- Samuel was in a serious, deep depression. He’d put his life into Saul and the whole thing turned sour.
- When things go bad, it’s one thing if they go bad because you’ve done something foolish, but when you’ve done your best and it still turns sour, then you mourn and grieve.
- To make matters worse, Samuel’s an old man. It’s hard to picture what it’s like to be 80 – 90 years old and have the last major thing God called you to do to be marked “failure”.
- God says, “Get a grip! How long are you going to be down about this? You have mourned long enough!”

* Comments on New Years Eve *

Personal Question

If you took a piece of paper and you wrote . . .

Things I _____

What would you put on that paper? (Examples) If you would put anything on that paper, those are things that you are still _____ over. God says to you tonight, “How long will you keep mourning?”

1 - _____

- **2nd Corinthians 7:10** – the greatest verse in all the Bible on sorrow and dealing with things you regret. In 1st Corinthians, the Corinthians were doing a lot of terrible things. Paul wrote them a letter and ate their lunch! They were very sorry.
- **Worldly Sorrow** – when you dwell on the past. Where five years later, _____ that stupid thing you did.
- **Godly Sorrow** – brings _____. Do you know what repentance is? It’s when you _____ something from your stupid mistakes! Godly sorrow leads to salvation and leaves no regrets.
- **Verse 11** – he says an amazing thing: “At every point you have proven yourself innocent in this matter.” Here’s the amazing thing, were they innocent? No. Paul said, “You repented and you look forward, and therefore God declares you innocent.”

WEEK # 4 CON'T

I Samuel 16:1

- “Fill your horn with oil” – a horn always represents your _____. Oil always represents the _____. To fill your horn with oil is to take your strength and open it up and say, “Let God’s strength fill my strength.” (Comments on Saul vs. David)
- “Be on your way” – there is a _____ that God has marked out for you. He has a specific plan for you. The walk with Christ is not about doing everything. The Word of God says, “Just do the _____ thing”.

Other Scriptures

- Ephesians 2:10 – there are good works that God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Hebrews 12:1 – a picture of the marathoners running the last lap into the Olympic stadium, full of cheering spectators. They’re cheering and shouting. People ask, “Can those in heaven see what’s going on?” You better believe they can! They watch like spectators, cheering!

2 – God’s _____ and God’s _____

3 – God will send you back to the thing that’s been a past failure

- I Samuel 16:1 – this is Samuel, the last ruling prophet, who ordained Saul. His entire life has been success, success, success – and now one massive failure. I believe Samuel would have preferred any other directive on the face of the earth other than, “Go anoint another king.”
- One of the things God may call you to is to _____ to have a great marriage, have joy in your time with God, learn how to unwind, etc.
- You cannot tackle another kingship until you have first cast off regrets. Then you’ve got to pause and be a horn – open up your mouth and say, “Fill me with strength.” Then many times you will tackle that past failure again.

4 – Your past mistakes will try to _____.

- I Samuel 16:2 – watch very carefully the instruction that God gives to Samuel.
- The things you write down that you give God, some of them, you may be embarrassed to tell others because they’re so glorious and so wonderful. (Examples).
- God has given very specific instructions: everything you write down, I will view these things as a _____. Everything God calls you to ... not a single one of them will you ever deserve, will you be qualified for, etc. (Examples).
- Say out of your mouth, “I will do this as a worship to God.”

WEEK # 4 CON'T

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 4
NO REGRETS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) Are there things in your life that you regret? Do you feel that God is saying that you have mourned enough? _____

2) How much worldly sorrow vs. godly sorrow do you have over things that you may regret?

3) Are you willing to try again in an area you've failed in before? What is God saying to you?

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY

ANSWERS

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 1 TRAGEDIES

PAGE 1

cause	effect	Why?
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PAGE 2

might not like	I do wrong	legitimate	No
nothing	Why	we live in a sin-filled world	

PAGE 3

stop	He will, one day	sinners	deserve
Yes, you did	unjust		

PAGE 4

Then	bear fruit	cut	shred
sorrow	mourn		

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 2 THE HUMAN NEED TO GRIEVE & MOURN

PAGE 6

Not	blaming	God, it hurts	One day
Pain	today	faith	I trust you

TEARS, TRUTH & TRAGEDY ANSWERS ContinuedTEARS, TRUTH AND TRAGEDY PART 2 ContinuedPAGE 7

structured

Chapter	Number of Verses	Sentences Per Verse	Total Number of Sentences
1	22	3	66
2	22	3	66
3	66	1	66
4	22	2	44
5	22	1	22

walk carefully with you in a structured environment

PAGE 8

rush

direct

hurting

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 3
THE FRUIT OF SUFFERINGPAGE 10

lifetime

suffering

gifts

suffering

completed

PAGE 11

least

ten times better

TEARS, TRUTH & TRAGEDY ANSWERS *Continued*

TEARS, TRUTH, AND TRAGEDY PART 4 NO REGRETS

PAGE 13

Regret	mourning	No	Regrets
You still regret	repentance	learn	

PAGE 14

strength	Holy Spirit	certain way	next
Strength	Direction	try again	