

True Tragedies

Luke 13:1-21

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The truth about tragedies:

- 1) It is a **personal** tragedy when we fail to recognize our **mortality** (v.1-5).
Notice:
 - a. The temple cruelty: the tragedy of **evil human** actions.
 - b. The tower calamity: the tragedy of **natural disasters**.
 - c. The true tragedy: focusing on the **manner of death** instead of the need for **repentance**. 13.5
- 2) It is a **national** tragedy when we waste God's blessings and presume on God's patience (v.6-9)
 - a. Note the issue of **wasted blessings**.
 - b. Note the issue of **fruitless living**.
 - c. Note the issue of **borrowed time**.
- 3) It is a **spiritual** tragedy when rule keeping trumps **mercy** in a local assembly (v.10-17).
 - a. Without mercy a church becomes **judgmental**
 - b. Without mercy a church becomes **hard hearted**
 - c. Without mercy a church offers no **help**
 - d. Without mercy a church offers no **hope**
 - e. Any tradition that keeps us from showing compassion and mercy is **not from God!**
- 4) It is a discouraging tragedy to **underestimate** or **minimize** Kingdom progress (v.18-21).
 - a. The kingdom of God may start small like a mustard seed but its **external growth** will not be denied.
 - b. The Kingdom of God may begin with little influence like a pinch of yeast but its **internal effect** will eventually permeate the entire mass until all is leavened.
 - c. The kingdom of God is advanced by **men** and **women** no matter how small the beginning.

Four thoughts:

- Don't worry as much about the **manner** of death as the **fact** of death.
- Don't forget that you are living on **borrowed time**. Repent before it is too late.
- Don't permit your **churchianity** to rob you of merciful Christianity.
- Don't dismiss your labors as **insignificant**.

[Churchianity is my own word. I know it doesn't exist.]