

WHEN ALL WE CAN SAY IS WHY

LUKE 13:1-5

Text:

Introduction:

September 11, 2001. It was a day that Americans will never forget. It was a day that changed our way of life forever, a day that destroyed our sense of invincibility. When the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and the walls of the Pentagon fell to the ground, citizens feared what would become of their great country. Thoughts turned to religion and to the Bible. How could a loving God let this happen? How can Christians continue to worship a God who presides over such destruction and catastrophe?

Churches opened their doors Tuesday evening for prayer and meditation. Attendance was much higher the next Sunday because of those seeking answers. Many found ministers preaching psychology and liberal doctrines that give no answers and no comfort. Their "feel-good" religion would not work in this situation.. While mankind struggles to understand, the Bible itself has answers to our questions. I direct you to Luke 13:1-5. This passage seems on the surface to be a "hard" saying in the midst of tragedy. But if you examine this text in its entirety, I believe you will come away with a

sense of God's message to us today in the face of our current circumstances.

1. THE EXAMINATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING (VS. 1)

Luke 13:1

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

A. These were seeking answers to a tragic situation.

2. THE EVIDENCE OF HEAVEN SINCERITY (VS. 2, 4)

Luke 13:2

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

Luke 13:4

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

A. The Lord was aware of this situation, and is aware of ours.

Psalm 86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

3. THE ERROR OF HUMAN SUPPOSITION (SUPPOSE YE; THINK YE)

Luke 13:2

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Luke 13:4

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

A. Many tried to figure it out; many today try to figure everything out.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:7

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 26:12

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Isaiah 5:21

Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

B. There are some things that we will not be able to figure out.

4. THE ESCAPE FROM HELL'S SORROW

Luke 13:3

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:5

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

A. Our concern should be spiritual