

Refrigerator Notes 28 February 2016
When Tragedy Strikes
Luke 13 1-9

1. The news headlines for Jesus time read, Pontius Pilate mingles the blood of some Galileans with their sacrifices
2. Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem, and some bystanders wanted to know if Jesus had heard the above news report
3. Jesus' instinct is not shock, but adds His own news story about 18 people killed when a tower in Siloam fell on them, which is located close to the Jerusalem wall
4. Whenever there's news about an unusual tragedy of a violent death or natural disaster, murder, earthquake, etc. people were shocked in Jesus' day just as they are shocked today when a similar event occurs (Emanuel Temple massacre or any horrific event in any community)
5. Normal reaction is that people are outraged and want immediate justice
6. Part of the problem as it was in Jesus' day was that people want to play the blame game, was it the attacker or the victims faults
7. However, Jesus in His time is about not settling a political issue, especially with the Romans
8. Some folks are wanting to blame God or ask the question 'where is God in this tragedy or why did God allow these incidents to take place
9. Jesus asked the accusers if the 18 whom the tower of Siloam fell were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem
10. In so many words, Jesus tells His audience that the same fate could happen to them unless they repented
11. Jesus in a roundabout way reminds those who are questioning Him, that God rains on the righteous and the unrighteous as well
12. This blame business can be a tricky thing, especially when we are in disagreement with reality.
13. Yet God has allowed billions of deaths to occur each year, death is death regardless of the way it happens
14. Jesus answers and says, "What about you?" Are you any better, that you should not be struck down and swept away in sudden death?
15. And so Jesus says, twice, "No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will also, likewise perish." In other words, take these examples of sudden, violent death as a warning on how one is living their life
16. Jesus cites the parable of the fig tree for us to draw a comparison with our own lives that since we have not bear fruit we should be cut down, but our Lord would give us a second, third, or fourth chance, to bear fruit
17. Our focus should be on death but on how we live for God's standard, DPC in time of tragedy keep your eyes on the Lord or you too could perish