

“When Tragedy Strikes”
Psalm 71:17-19

Pastor Tim Trexler
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¹⁷O God, You have taught me from my youth,
And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸And
even when I am old and gray, O God, do not
forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this
generation, Your power to all who are to come.
¹⁹For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the
heavens, You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?

Why?

Why is the one question that hits the hardest, lingers the longest and hurts the most. Of all questions, this is the most searching and most tormenting.

- Chuck Swindoll

Job asked, why? (Job 3:11)
Habakkuk asked, why? (Hab. 1:3)
Jeremiah asked, why (Jer. 12:1)

When Tragedy Strikes:

1. Remember the Goodness of God!

- God's goodness is the quality in Him that causes Him to bless people, deliver them and store up future gifts for them. (Ps. 84:11)**

⁷They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness. ⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

¹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why is it important to understand the nature of God's Goodness? Because the devil and his demons want you to doubt God's goodness.

⁷Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰But he

said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

When Tragedy Strikes:

2. Rest in God's Sovereignty!

- God is in total control and completely in charge!
(Ps. 115:3, Isaiah 46:10, Lamentations 3:37)**

³But our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever He pleases.

¹⁰I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My people will stand, and I will do all that I please.

³⁷Who can speak and have it happen
if the Lord has not decreed it?

**God is working within creation to manage
everything according to His plan.
(Ephesians 1:11)**

**God is completely in charge of His world.
His hands may be hidden, but His rule is
absolute... the world is ruled by God, not by
chance or fate.**

- J.I. Packer

When Tragedy Strikes:

3. Respond According to the Word of God!

- When you don't know what to do,
do what you know to do!**
- W-T-O-P (Worship, Trust, Obey and Pray)**

Job's response to tragedy (Job 1:12-22)

²⁰Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

²¹He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

²²Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

(Worship)

Job 1:20-22

¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold
And there be no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸Yet I will
exult in the LORD,

I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹The Lord GOD is my strength,
And He has made my feet like hinds' feet,
And makes me walk on my high places.
For the choir director, on my stringed
instruments.
(Worship)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
(Trust)

¹⁵Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.
Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.
(Trust)

**Faith is not receiving from God what you want,
faith is accepting from God what He gives.**

- Dr. Adrian Rogers

³⁹And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”
(Obey)

⁴¹Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

(Pray)

Sermon in a Sentence:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

(John 3:17)

Application:

- 1. Pray for the family and friends of Parker Earl.**
- 2. Come to Christ and be saved from the penalty and eternal punishment of your sins.
(Romans 6:23)**
- 3. Faith@Home: Share how the scriptures have helped you in times of sorrow and loss. Which passages comforted you the most?**