

- A. Sometimes when we ask God a question, He redirects us to the more pressing issue at hand.
 - 1. We see how God do this in the life of Job.
 - 2. In today's text a question arises about the secret will of God concerning why some are ordained to suffer a terrible death.
- B. In Lu 12, Jesus taught about the necessity of being ready for our Master's return at an hour.
 - 1. Tragedies can happen unexpectedly; any of us can die unexpectedly & may be required to answer to the Lord.
 - 2. He wants us to be ready.

You are to see the tragedies of this life as a warning to flee the wrath to come.	I. <u>THE QUESTION</u> II. <u>THE MORE PRESSING ANSWER</u>
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I. THE QUESTION (vv 1-2)

- A. Some came to Jesus to report to Him what they thought was a horrendous tragedy.
- B. If you carefully read v1, you may have realized that those who brought this report to Jesus did not ask a question outright according to what is written.
 - 1. It is possible that Luke left-out some details of the conversation.
 - 2. Perhaps Jesus knew what was on the minds of those who reported this calamity to Him.
 - In Lu 5:20f, Jesus was able to perceive the thoughts of men because of His divine nature.
- C. The question Jesus said was on their minds was this, **“Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate?”**
 - 1. This is often what the Jews assumed when someone suffered a terrible fate.
 - 2. Eliphaz, one of Job's counselors, told him in Job 4:7, **“...who ever perished being innocent?”**
 - 3. Turn to John 9:1-3 for an example of the Jews saying that sin was the root of a disability.
 - 4. Questions such as why God allowed tragedies or a loved one to suffer a severe disability pertains to His secret will.
 - a. We will understand the reasons when we go to be with the Lord & we will be pleased with His answers.
 - b. Until that time, remember Deut 29:29: **“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.**
 - c. Jesus revealed to us how tragedies point us to our greatest need.

II. THE MORE PRESSING ANSWER (vv 3-5).

A. The pressing answer is that the calamities of this life are a wake-up call for men, women, & children everywhere to repent.

1. What does it mean to repent? Rather than a superficial, inadequate repentance. WSC¹ 87
“Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, & apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief & hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, & endeavor after, new obedience.”

a. Key to having a Biblical Repentance is having an “apprehension [a true grasp] of the mercy of God in Christ.”

b. True repentance involves your “grief & hatred of [your] sin.” That should result in your turning from your sins unto God.

2. Jesus said, **“Apart from Me, you can do nothing!”**

a. That includes having a true repentance for sin that is pleasing in His sight.

b. You must pray for the Holy Spirit to help you repent of your sin in a way that is pleasing to God.

B. Jesus said that death, dying, sufferings, tragedies, & disasters here on earth should make us think about the ultimate tragedy of mankind— the eternal death in hell.

1. Hell is described as a place of unquenchable fire, causing gruesome pain.

a. Those who die in unbelief awake in hellfire.

b. After the resurrection, unbelievers are re-united with their bodies & their suffering is intensified as they are cast into the lake of fire along with the devil & his minions.

2. **Heb 10** has warning for those even in the church who lack biblical, true repentance
→ **Heb 10:26-31**

Review, further application, & conclusion:

¹ Westminster Shorter Catechism