

# Why?

Sunday AM 05/29/22

## Introduction:

A common question asked when tragedies occur is why? There are 401 verses in the NKJV with the word “why”, 285 in the Old Testament, 116 in New Testament. Perhaps not all of them are germane to our lesson but many are. The Psalmist asked this question many times.

***Psalms 10:1*** *Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?*

***Psalms 22:1*** <<" A Psalm of David.>> *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*

***Psalms 42:9*** *I will say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"*

We might think of Job as he suffered loss, or the widow at Nain.

***Luke 7:11*** *Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. 12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.*

Why do we ask the question “why?” Perhaps to make sense of what has happened, and to see what can be done to avoid this in the future.

## I) Why

### A) Sometimes we have to acknowledge the temporary nature of life.

1. We live in an imperfect world.
2. Time and chance events.

***Ecclesiastes 9:11*** *I returned and saw under the sun that-The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.*

3. Sickness (CoVid), illnesses (Parkinson's) accidents, miscalculations, etc.

**B) Some tragedies are perpetrated by those intending to do harm**

1. We often say it is a "heart problem"

***Matthew 15:18*** *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

2. What does that mean?
  - a. The heart thinks, ***Acts 8:22*** *"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.*
  - b. The heart desires, ***Romans 10:1*** *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*
  - c. The heart feels, ***Acts 2:26*** *Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.*
3. We need to watch how we think, what we desire, and how we feel.
4. The heart can become hardened.
  - a. To the point of not seeing people as people.
  - b. Not caring for human life. Nazi's did not consider Jews to be people. Racism sees others as being inferior.

**C) What causes someone to become evil or hard hearted to the point of doing bad things.**

1. Violence – videos, movies often glamorize violence in graphic detail.
  - a. How many acts of murder will a child see before reaching adulthood. On television, in movies, in video games.
  - b. Often there is a disconnect between pretend and reality. I grew up playing cops and robbers, army, cowboy and Indians, etc. We had toy guns and some of us had real guns. We knew the difference between the two.
  - c. Southside shootings outside of Jonesboro, AR – the two young boys treated it as a game.
2. Breakdown of the home which leads to either bad parenting or no parenting.

***Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;***

3. Peer pressure – getting in with the wrong crowd.

***Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.***

4. True mental illness where rational thought is gone.
5. The victim mentality where every person is a victim. Black/White, female/male, rich/poor, ethnic, etc. The recent Buffalo shooting was done by a person because he

## II) What Can We Do?

### A) You can't change the world but you can change you.

1. Little things.
  - a. Be kind/gentle - ***Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,***
  - b. Say please and thank you – being considerate goes a long way.

- c. Make eye contact – aids communication, shows people you are interested in them. I don't think Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman by the well looking down.
- d. Empathize with others- walk a mile in their shoes.

**Mark 2:17** *When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

- i. Jesus did not condone the publicans and harlots but He came to lift them out of their sins.
- ii. We are to love the souls of others.
- e. Get to know one another – talk to others, spend time with others. (Isolation is not good for people. The shooter in Texas had little interaction with anyone.)

**B) Focus on the good things.**

**Philippians 4:8** *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

- 1. Being more like Jesus is better than trying to be a better version of yourself.

**1 Peter 2:21** *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

- 2. Be thankful for what you have, count your blessings. We are a country overwhelmed with material blessings. To the point people are risking their lives to get here.
  - a. Don't be envious of others. Have you ever known an envious person who was happy?
  - b. Mention God when you are blessed, not just when you are

hurting.

**James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

3. As parents be involved with your children. A very common pattern are parents who were totally surprised with what their child was doing.
  - a. Columbine High School shootings in Colorado, the parents had no idea of what their boys were doing.
  - b. Set boundaries – children are happiest when they have boundaries.
4. Go out of your way to help someone else and teach your children to do the same. **Galatians 6.10; James 1.27**
5. Pray for your enemies.

**Matthew 5:44** *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

- a. Their attitude toward you may change.
- b. Your attitude toward them will change.

**Conclusion:**

**Romans 12:21** *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*