

A Response to Tragedy Ezekiel 24

When we don't respond to tragedy the way the world expects, we get their attention. Through the life of Ezekiel, we see how our response to tragedy and suffering can glorify Christ even in the midst of personal pain.

Background of Ezekiel:

- What was happening during this time and why was Ezekiel inspired to write this book?
- Trilogy between Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel

Structure of the Book

- The first half of Ezekiel is to reveal to the captives of Judah their sins and to prophesy certain judgment that would take place.

Ezekiel split up into three parts:

1. Chapters 1-24: Ezekiel predicts the siege and destruction of the city of Jerusalem six years before the destruction happens.
2. Chapters 25-32: Time during the siege in which Ezekiel's prophecies deal with the surrounding enemies of Judah
3. Chapters 33-48: The post-siege of Jerusalem. Judah has lost everything they have loved and they have nowhere to look but God. The beginning of hope.

Ezekiel's response to a great loss

Part 1 (Ezekiel's loss)

- When we don't respond to hardships the way people expect, we get their attention.

Part 2 (Judah's loss)

- Ezekiel lost his wife. People ask why he is not weeping or tearing his clothes.

Part three (hope)

- Verse 24 and 27 end with "they will know that I am Lord"
- When this tragedy happens they will know that He is God.

Application

- How do we handle suffering?

Two examples: the example of Judah and the example of Ezekiel

1. Judah Captives

- When we feel alone or feel like everything is stripped away there is hope. WE can hold on to hope.
- Look to Him, because He is trying to get your attention

2. Ezekiel

- So how do Christians react to tragedy and pain?
- Look at the example of Ezekiel

- When we don't respond to hardships and tragedies the way people expect, we get their attention
- When we have joy and hope in the midst of suffering, people notice
- We can use our tragedies as a way to manifest and personify our faith

- The irony of Death: sin leads to death, yet even the ultimate wage of our sin (death) is defeated by Jesus Christ. Our hope is in Him.
- People notice and recognize His joy in the midst of His pain
- It is a witness to others. People will listen to people going through pain.
- In our pain and setbacks, God is calling us to be dependent on Him, gaining the attention of the world that desperately needs Him.
- Pray that God would use pain in our own lives for His glory.
- Recognize others who are suffering from pain and tragedy. Comfort and pray for them.