Lessons from Tragedy

• Ten years ago...
• 4 planes: 2 NY, 1 DC, 1 PA
• Our nation was jarred awake, and went to God
  – Why did this happen?
  – How can a good God do this?
  – Why do innocent people suffer?
  – Where is the justice of God on evil?
• In Jesus’ day...
• Luke’s Gospel, like Acts, chronological
• NOTE: 13:1 – “on the same occasion”
• Ch 12:
  – Vs. 6 – Sparrows and hairs of your head
  – Vs. 12 – Holy Spirit teaching us
  – Vs. 15 – Warnings against greed
  – Vs. 27 – Lilies and Ravens
  – Vs. 34 – Treasure/Heart connection
  – Vs. 35 – BE READY!
  – Vs. 56 – do you analyze the weather but not times?
Tragedies of Evil Intent

• Pilate in his evil reign
  – Galileans had rebelled, been put down – hard!
  – Possibly Judas of Galilee (Acts 5:37)
  – Tyrants hold power thru terror and horrific acts
  – Caught them in the act of worship & killed them
  – Mixing the blood with the offering of the day...

• People thought they must be GREAT sinners
  – Jesus had another idea – “unless you repent”
  – Acts of terror are warnings of the sin of our world
• Tower in Siloam, probably near the pool
  – 18 workers of the tower die in an accident
  – A common happening in the day of Jesus and ours
  – Worse culprits? opheiletēs - Debtor, under obligations
• Evil things happen to all people!
1 The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; And devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from evil,

2 He enters into peace; They rest in their beds, Each one who walked in his upright way.
Ps 73:

3 for I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 for there are no pains in their death, and their body is fat.

5 they are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like mankind.

6 therefore pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them.

7 their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of their heart run riot.

8 they mock and wickedly speak of oppression; they speak from on high.
<table>
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<th>Tragedies of Events</th>
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<td>– Tragedy doesn’t indicate great sin – just sins effects</td>
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<td>– Jesus again gives the answer “unless you repent”</td>
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<td>– Our sorrow can turn to anger and then to sin…</td>
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• God calls us to look to our Fields & Figs…
  – Often a symbol of Israel… i.e. Matt 24:32
  – Looking for fruit… 3 years, nothing…
  – Cut it down? Using ground…
  – One more year…

• We can be ruled by our anger and pain
  – That is a “no fruit” road that brings great loss
  – It is time to look at what we have learned

• We saw acts of “everyday heroes”
• Jesus had the only answer, not judgment.
• Repent…