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WHY, GOD ?

WHY ? That's often the first question that comes to mind for many people in tragic times. We naturally ask "why" because things are overwhelming or beyond our comprehension. We don't want things to be this difficult way. We need hope!

All the real answers will come in the next life. So, the real question to ask today is not 'why'...but 'how'... **HOW** will you respond to this tragedy? Thank God that's a question you CAN answer! Because the Bible has the answer for all the whys and the hows...a good answer, the real answer. And the answer is a **WHO**... it's Jesus!

Psalm 34:18 says "**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted.**" How we need this today! The appropriate response when our hearts are broken is to TURN to the Lord who created us and loves us and completely understands the heartbreak of loss and tragedy. When we turn, He is there, as Psalm 34:8 says, "**O taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed are all those who take refuge in HIM.**"

The Lord invites you right now to turn to Him, for hope and help and compassion and mercy and strength and comfort... in Himself. Psalm 34:4 says, "**I sought the LORD, and HE answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**" The Bible reveals the record of the real life experiences of people through the ups and downs of their relationship with God, in their experiences of everything life has to offer, including tragedy and disappointment as well as successes and joys. You are invited to take **REFUGE** in the personal God who created you and knows all your heartaches - and Who has done something about it.

It simply will not do, to try to deny the existence of God, or try to blame Him for evil. You end up with even greater questions of intellectual integrity and despair. A highly recommended little resource expands on this: "**If God is Good, Why Do We Hurt**" by Pastor Randy Alcorn. It shows how taking refuge in Jesus is "the only answer greater than all the questions."

Believing in God makes good sense, but is only the first step. That's because there's a problem in your relationship with your Creator. It's called S-I-N. That's your disobedience and rebellion against God. Sin is why there's trouble and tragedy and death in the world. The word sin means "missing the mark." Picture a hunter's arrow or shell falling short. It's disobedient to the hunter's intention. Romans 3:23 says, "**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified - made right with God - by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**"

That's why Jesus came. Only He is perfect. He hits the mark. Many people think they can believe in Him their own way and in their own time. If that were true, why did Jesus have to die on the cross? The Bible explains how only the death of Jesus is your "redemption" - the only perfect payment that could pay the debt you owe God because of your sins. He provides your way out. He makes things right through Jesus.

And God understands the greatest heartbreak of all - the loss of His one and only Son, Jesus, who met His death not by tragic accident, but by God's design and purpose - so that all who receive His gift can live. You see, when you stand at the foot of the cross, your question is not "why, God, did you allow such tragic things to happen in my life?" No, your question is, "why God, did you do THIS for me - that Jesus should die for me - to save me from sin?" Because on the cross, Jesus took all your pain and sin and disobedience and heartbreak, and paid for it all, in His own body. And He lives to give you new life!

You see, God has heard your cries of "why" and "how" and He has answered, to rescue you. Now the next move is yours. The REAL tragedy would be for you to enter eternity without trusting in Jesus.

So **HOW** will **YOU** respond today? Jesus invites you to take refuge in Him. Then He will forgive your sins. He will give you His own eternal resurrection life. He will live through you as you live for Him and by His power. He will change your life, for every day that He gives you on earth. And one day you will live with Him forever in heaven. All because HE is good. HE knows. And HE cares.

How will YOU respond to Jesus today? "**O taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed are all those who take refuge in HIM.**"