

Dear Editor,

When tragedy strikes it is easy to lose perspective. The recent tragedies we have seen in our community are natural evil caused by the Fall of creation when Adam disobeyed God's Word in Eden. As image bearers of God, we have consciences that innately tell us that to die through tragedy is "not right." Something is wrong with the picture. This may be, in part, the point in why God allows human beings to live in a world swirling with natural evil.

During His time on earth, Jesus responded to people concerned about deaths that were "not right." He said, "Do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?" Jesus' question is asked of people today who think God is to blame for allowing natural evil to kill human beings, or those who deny God even exists because they cannot reconcile God and evil in the world. Jesus is clear in His response. He says, "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:4-5).

At first, Jesus' answer seems heartless. Upon further reflection however, His answer is a loving warning. He warns those grieved by the presence of natural evil in the world to realize that an even more severe death awaits them if they refuse to repent of their sin and believe that Jesus is their savior. This death is more severe because it is forever. Jesus knows that the most "not right" death in the world is the one that leads to an eternity in hell apart from Him. It is "not right" because everything anyone needs to escape it has been provided for them in Jesus. A person simply needs to agree with God that he has sinned against Him, and believe that Christ died on the cross to save him from those sins and then rose from the dead.

Tragedies will continue to occur. Lives will continue to be lost. We will continue to know that the loss of these lives is "not right," that something is wrong with the picture. May this motivate you to consider Jesus' words that this wrong picture is a shadow of what happens in the spiritual world for those who reject Him and instead chose their sin. Repent and believe in Jesus, my friends.

Sincerely yours,

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