How to React to Tragedy & Suffering

Joel 2:12-17
Even now—this is the LORD’s declaration—turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God. For He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, and He relents from sending disaster. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave
a blessing behind Him, so you can offer grain and wine to the LORD your God. Blow the horn in Zion! Announce a sacred fast; proclaim an assembly. Gather the people; sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom, and the bride her honeymoon chamber.
Let the priests, the LORD’s ministers, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say: “Have pity on Your people, LORD, and do not make Your inheritance a disgrace, an object of scorn among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”
Hope

Even when all is falling apart, God is waiting (v.12)

Half-hearted measures will not get things done (v.12)

Changing the inside will create a lasting change on the outside (v.13)

The character of God (v.13)

The possibilities of hope (v.14) “Who knows?”

Grace & blessing may yet happen (v.14)
The Trumpet

A call to national repentant prayer in seeking God (v.15)
The Role of the People

All life comes to a halt for a country to return to God (v.16)

The small & great a called to gather (v.16)

Celebration comes to an end in order for repentance to priority (v.16)

The priest is to stand between the people & God begging for pity (v.17)

The promise of Abraham’s inheritance (v.17)
Where is their God? (v.17)
What About You?

Are you turning to God?

Are you calling others to return to God?