



Why?

"Why O Lord do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Psalm 10:1 ESV

"O Lord, you will strengthen their heart...so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more." Psalm 10:17+18

Last week our nation witnessed another horrible shooting spree in a school. Those few minutes changed the course of hundreds of lives effected by the actions of a clearly disturbed young man. Why didn't law enforcement act on the signs so evident to many? Why would a boy who was expelled from a school for threatening behavior be allowed to buy an assault rifle? Why did God permit this evil to inflict such widespread pain? When something horrible goes wrong, we like to figure out the "why?" King David was among those who often asked "why?"

Now politicians, law enforcement authorities, psychologists and myriads of other experts will weigh in on how to "fix this." While these efforts may be noble and even necessary, it really does not get to the heart of what really occurred that day. It is the result of a broken and imperfect world blanketed in sin.

While we all pray that this type of evil never happens in our school, there is no way that we can avoid the consequences of sin. Gossip, lying, jealousy, and pride yield chaos in our lives. The only way to "fix this" is through the sinless sacrifice made on the cross by Our loving Father. The real "why?" is not "why does evil exist?" Rather the real question is why would God let His only Son die on the Cross for us?

An ex-Muslim friend of mine (Tarek) told me once that when he learned that God willingly gave up His Son, so that by faith, Tarek could gain heaven; he wanted to be a part of that kind of love. His baptism sealed the fact that he could never return to Saudi Arabia where he would face death for leaving Islam. For some, faith truly can cost them much. And this is growing increasingly true in our country today.

Never take for granted the love that God has for you through His Son, Jesus Christ. Daily renew your Baptismal promise that God has planted that saving faith in you. And while the chaos from sin runs rampant all around you, look for ways to share the only solution to the human dilemma of original sin: Jesus Christ.

God's peace,

Mike Zimmer

Discussion Questions-

1. Why are humans prone to figuring out why bad things happen?
2. When did you experience something good that came out of a tragedy?
3. How might you share the hope of eternal life with someone who does not yet believe in Jesus?