

SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014
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REFLECTIONS ON THE MURDER OF HAILEY OWENS
WHY?

Real Questions. Real Emotion. Real heartache.

- Questions are _____. In fact, the desire to figure out the world around us is God-given (Ecclesiastes 1:13-15).
- Jesus _____ the questions related to Lazarus' death and did not _____ the questioners (John 11). Jesus recognized their unbelief and used the moment to teach.
- In fact, Jesus addressed _____ such as this.
 - First, what was _____ believed about circumstances? Doctrine of Divine Retribution: the belief that God (Yahweh) the righteous Judge _____ the righteous with prosperity and _____ the wicked with calamity
 - Does personal sin _____ otherwise unexplainable calamity?
 - Example 1: Jesus heals a _____ man (John 9)
 - Example 2: Jesus addresses the _____ by Pilate (Luke 13:1-5).
 - Example 3: Jesus discusses the _____ of the Tower of Siloam (Luke 13:1-5).
 - Simple answer: _____. You cannot look at suffering and make direct connections to unknown, unspecific or community sins.

So, how do we consider an atrocity such as this?

- Remember the _____ story
Creation – Fall – Redemption – Restoration
The world is _____.

- God does not allow us to see all the _____ of His plan (Ecclesiastes 3).
 - The theme of the book is that life is frustratingly _____ without God (Eccl 1:2; 12:8).
 - Solomon's reasoned conclusion: every believer is to _____ God and carefully _____ Him (12:13-14).
 - Solomon first observes various areas of life in order to demonstrate our lack of ultimate gain (1:12-6:9); then he exhorts believers to godly living in spite of our _____ to understand everything in life (6:10-11:6).
 - God allows life to happen in cycles. As creation, we do not know what cycle it is. Whatever God has given us today, we are to _____ it and _____ it for His glory (2:24; 3:1-14).
- We cannot _____ God's past or future work completely (Ecclesiastes 6:10-11:6).
 - Good and bad days are not in _____ sequence and cannot be guaranteed (7:13-18).
 - We cannot understand God's _____ of justice (8:10-17).

So, how do we respond then?

1. _____ for help and mercy (Hebrews 4:16)
2. Use _____ when talking with God or about God (Job 38-42)
3. Think about the _____ of life (Ecclesiastes 7:1-12)
4. Remember, God _____ understands when the innocent suffer (Acts 2:22-24)
5. Point people to the _____ of the Gospel message (John 14:6)
6. _____ (trust/respect) God and keep His commandments