

HOW DO YOU DO RESPOND TRAGEDY? Ruth 1:6-22

I. Ignoring God's Grace (6-10).

Psalm 103:1-2: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and forget not all His benefits.**

Judges 3:7: So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. **They forgot the Lord their God,** and served the Baals and Asherahs.

Psalm 77:9-11: **Has God forgotten to be gracious?** Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? And I said, "This is my anguish; **but I will remember** the years of the right hand of the Most High." **I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.**

II. Embracing Worldly Wisdom (11-14).

James 3:13-18: Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and [self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. **This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

III. Exercising Bold Faith in God (15-17).

Joshua 2:10-11: For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, **for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.**

Hebrews 11:14-16: For those who say such things declare plainly **that they seek a homeland.** And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

IV. Exhibiting Bitterness toward God (19-22).

Ephesians 4:31: Let all **bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you,** with all malice.

Hebrews 12:14-15: Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God;

lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

Sunday morning; May 24, 2018.