

# LIVING RADICALLY TOGETHER IN A WORLD OF TRAGEDY



**R A D I C A L   T O G E T H E R**

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<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?"

-Luke 13:1-2



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- ✘ Our disadvantage today is that we see tragedies played out in real time and can't get away from them
- ✘ Death and tragedy are around us all of the time
- ✘ What does your theology do with suffering and tragedy?



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- ✘ These people had reached false conclusions based on false assumptions
- ✘ Suffering comes directly from sin
- ✘ Prosperity comes from goodness
- ✘ These people were really bad sinners!
- ✘ Jesus rejects both



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<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

-Luke 13:3-5



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- ✘ Both groups died doing what they thought would keep them safe
- ✘ Jesus says this isn't a chance to judge others but a warning for all
- ✘ Specifically- the destruction of Jerusalem
- ✘ Huge questions hang in the air, but Jesus makes it more personal and immediate: repenting and perishing



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- ✘ Christ is telling us that one reason terrible things happen is to remind us that sin is terrible
- ✘ ALL will perish
- ✘ In Scripture disaster often comes to drive people to their knees
- ✘ What if the last decade in America was for this purpose?



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- × What is repentance?
- × An admission by the sinner:
  - × That his behavior and heart are evil
  - × That he can't change himself





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<sup>3</sup>Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

-Romans 2:3-4



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<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

-Luke 13:6-9



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- ✘ A farmer has a right to expect his tree to be productive; a return on his investment
- ✘ God gives us rich spiritual ground and expects proportionate returns
- ✘ It's dangerous to be unproductive!



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- × Verse 9 is all about mercy!
- × Not amazing that guilty sinners die or suffer or kill
- × Amazing that we're not all dead!
- × "What kind of God does that/allows that?"
- × Should be changed to, "What kind of God allows anyone to live?"



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- ✘ In your suffering, what's happening to your theology?
- ✘ Job, Moses, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Jesus- all suffered horribly
- ✘ All wrestled through to talk to, praise and obey God



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- ✘ We face these things & we live radically together for Christ because of hope - hope in what?
- ✘ <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, -Eph. 1:11
- ✘ <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Rom 8:38-39
- ✘ That Christ has died and risen and is maturing us through it all



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- × What does radical living look like?
- × <sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
-Habakkuk 3:17-18



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- ✘ Repent!
- ✘ Of sin and rejection of Christ
- ✘ Of arrogance and rejection of God's greatness
- ✘ Of a lack of productivity from great spiritual blessings
- ✘ Thank God for His mercy and ask for those that need it most
- ✘ Live radically for a great God who saves and coordinates all of life for our maturity
- ✘ Am I a good example of a radical Christian?





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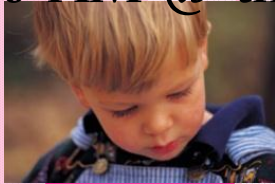
# MOTHER'S OF PRESCHOOLERS



When & Where:

Thursday, Sept. 15th

9:30 AM @ the Greatwood Chick-fil-



A

For: Bible study, fellowship, and encouragement. Bring your children! Childcare will be provided.



- ✿ Ladies Bible Study  
BEGINS Sept. 12th
- ✿ Every other Monday at  
the Greatwood Rec. Center.
- ✿ Me, Myself, & Lies by  
Jennifer Rothschild
- ✿ Sign-up **TODAY** at the  
Women's Ministry table