

SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, June 29/30, 2024 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Whose Fault Is This?” **TEXT:** Lamentations 3 & Mark 5

INTRO. June 15, 1904 – SS Gen. Slocum > Lower East River → Locust Pt., on board 1357 members of St. Mark Luth. Ch. Abreast 125th St. – fire!

Beached on N. Brother Is., extended to deep water. 1021, > ½ children, died. Whose fault? Many had answer: God was guilty! Where was he?

TEXT: Lam./Mark have a different answer: Jeremiah: “For [God] does not *willingly* bring affliction or grief to anyone.” Mark: the heart of God in action → heals woman/raises girl. God *allows* trouble, but his compassion answers every accusation with his love, mercy, and grace.

I. IT’S A BROKEN WORLD WITHOUT A DOUBT

ILLUST. VBS: “It’s a Mess!” – absolutely!

A. Not a day goes by w/o tragedy, injustice, violence, sorrow.

1. Since the Fall, there’s been no paradise on earth.

2. God does not CAUSE these things --- WE DO.

B. People are broken – you and me included.

1. We sin: by commission/omission, on purpose, by accident

NOTE: a) Woman “suffered much” from “doctors” who took all \$

b) “She’s dead – why bother the Teacher?” c) Laughed at Jesus.

2. We’ve been ignorant: realize all science, industry, medicine have discovered were ALWAYS there? We just didn’t know it.

3. We’re STILL sinning and we’re STILL ignorant of many things.

II. DOUBTERS & UNBELIEVERS BLAME THE WRONG ONE

ILLUST. Gen. Slocum: “How could God let this happen?” – Too crowded, rotten life vests, no fire drill, Eng.Co.#7 at 138th St. pier, passed right by.

A. “God does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.”

1. We make choices. 2. Evil people exist. 3. Our selfishness is often the root of things. 4. Our compassion is limited.

B. God’s COMPASSION is real: SEE JESUS!

1. One in a crowd. 2. One little family. 3. Tears at the grave of Lazarus. 4. The Cross!

C. Even out of sorrows/evil, God works for good, His will gets done.

D. What does He seek? FAITH

1. “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

2. “Do not be afraid; just believe.”

3. Troubles will come. Lean on the Lord. Trust Him above all things.

CLOSE: Cost of wars in the 1900’s? Millions of lives, intelligence; materials & resources, \$, labor: how would we be different today if all employed for good? Cancer, food, climate, medicine? DO NOT BLAME GOD – Trust Him.