

Title: Tragedies of Our Generation

Scripture: Jeremiah 6:10;

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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Jeremiah 6:10 *"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it."*

If we won't receive the word of God, how can we be helped? Tragedy means "that which causes sadness" or "a sad topic that produces sorrow". Do you think that the things going on in our world are causing the Lord to be sad and sorrowful? Our world has been through several events in the last few years that show how evil the people we live with can be. 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the school shootings, the recent shooting at the church in SC, etc. The list goes on and on. However, there are events more tragic than these things.

Tragedies that are worse in our generation:

1. The Tragedy of church without the Holy Spirit:

Tonight there are churches that will have services as usual. Nothing in the house of God should be usual. We should come into the house of God expecting the unexpected. In John 16:7-14 it talks about *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."*

Three things that men reject regarding the Holy Spirit:

- a. Men reject the wisdom and knowledge that comes from the Holy Spirit. They do this by doing things their way. We make programs and schedules and leave no room for the Holy Spirit.
- b. Men reject the power of the Holy Spirit needed to overcome the temptation of sin. Christ said he would make a way of escape from temptation, but many times we don't want to escape. We don't trust him to do that work in us; we reject the Spirit.
- c. Men reject the convicting power of the Holy Spirit in our lives directing us to what the will of God should be. In Genesis, it says that God's Spirit will not always strive with man. There will come a time where the Spirit of God will be taken out.

2. The Tragedy of Christianity without Christ:

Acts 4:12 *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Christ is the ONLY way to obtain salvation. There is no other way. John 14:6 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* People give every reason under the sun proclaiming why they are "Christians", but never mention God. They claim their works, money, baptisms, and all other things make them Christians, but it's not possible. Titus 3:5 *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"* You can be a wonderful person but you are never good enough until you've received the Holy Spirit.

3. The Tragedy of Salvation Without Regeneration:

It's harder to pretend to be a Christian than it is to actually be one. The word regeneration means "spiritually reborn; restored to a better condition". II Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:*

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old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” When one has truly obtained the Holy Spirit, a change takes place. You bear fruits that show whether you made a change or not. You can’t come into church, sit for an hour, and walk out and act like the world and be truly changed. People who profess to know Christ generally don’t act like Christ. These people are pretending to be something they are not. I Corinthians 6:9-11 *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”* Paul wrote this to show the Corinthian church that although they weren’t perfect, their present actions were better than their past actions. We may stumble and fall on our path with God, but we’re better off with him than we were when we were without him.

4. The Tragedy of Heaven without Hell:

Mark 9 describes hell as a place where the fire isn’t quenched and the soul doesn’t ever die. It will suffer in a fire that will not be quenched. Luke 16 gives the parable of the beggar and the rich man – the rich man suffered in hell and was begging for just a drop of water. People now hold to the phrase “God is love”. This is true, however, God is a God of justice and judgment. God is angry with the wicked. Hebrews 9:27 *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* II Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

The biggest tragedy is not knowing Christ as your savior.