

They Saw the Star: Tragedy & Triumph

Matthew 2:3-8, 16-23 – Pastor Todd Dugard

“The birth of Jesus brings tragedy to light and offers triumph to a hurting world.”

What personal triumphs did the sermon remind you of? What personal tragedies came to mind?

Dig In!

Trouble births tragedy (2:3-8)

- Why is it important for us to see that the Christmas story includes a tragedy like the ‘slaughter of innocents’?
- What are some current, tragic problems that cause you to groan in the way Romans 8:22 describes?
- We heard that tragedies continue to happen because of the curse of sin. How does knowing why tragic things happen to give us a spiritual advantage in our own tragic situations?
- How should Christians respond to the lamenting of those who have experienced tragedy? (2:18)

Tragedy births triumph (2:13-23)

The sermon discusses three non-triumphant responses to tragedy. We WALLOW in personal tragedy. We SETTLE with it. We NERVOUSLY ANTICIPATE more tragedy to come. None of these responses lead to triumph.

- How can a person tell when they are responding in one of these ways?
- What should a person do differently if they’ve been responding in one of these ways?
- How was Mary and Joseph’s triumph linked to their trust in God’s ability to save them?

“Unless we see that tragedy births triumph, we condemn ourselves to a dark and hopeless existence.” – Todd Dugard

Break Out!

- In light of your own personal tragedies, what promises from God do you need to trust in deeply so that you can experience personal triumph? Pray with others about these promises and ask God to fulfill them for his glory in your life!

