

Jesus and the Problem of Evil

Luke 13:1-17

The Logic

1. If God is all-good, He would prevent evil
2. If God is all-powerful, He could prevent evil
3. If God is all-knowing, He knows how to prevent evil
4. But evil exists
5. Therefore, either God is not all-good, all-powerful, or all-knowing

The Logic

1. If God does not exist, transcendent objective moral values do not exist
2. But evil exists
3. Therefore, transcendent objective moral values exist
4. Therefore, God exists

God's mercy for us Illustrated

2Sam 14:14 ...Yet God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Rom 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

God's Mercy for us Demonstrated

Jesus walks into a situation where the problem of evil had been king for a long time

Jesus takes on the problem of evil and makes it personal

Jesus essentially says, "This is my DNA!"

The Tragedies of Life should awaken us to:

1. the brevity of life and thus the need for God's mercy
2. the reality of God's mercy that prevents us from all being consumed by tragedy - instantly
3. the need to place our lives and destiny into His merciful hands, knowing that His eternal plans for us are shaped by His everlasting mercy