

**W  
H  
E  
N  
  
C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T  
I  
A  
N  
S  
  
G  
E  
T  
  
I  
T  
  
W  
R  
O  
N  
G**

## When Bad Things Happen

Christians get it wrong when they attribute tragedy to the will, plan, and hand of God. They get it wrong when they blame victims as the cause of their own suffering. It is not the majority of Christian opinion that when tragedy occurs globally or personally, that it is the will or punishment of God. When Christians do that, we just all look a little worse in the world's eyes.

### 1st Step

**Job 2:11-13**

I Peter 5:6-10

Luke 13: 1-17

Matthew 14: 13-21

### Step In

Last week we talked about the need to listen to and learn from people of other faiths. Share examples of ways you have looked for commonalities with those of differing viewpoints this week. Have you been able to discuss your faith views with gentleness and respect? Why or why not?

### Step Up

I Peter 5:6-10 shows Peter's confidence in God in difficult times. He believed the power of evil, not God, causes hardships and that God remains a close presence and support when believers suffer. How does Peter's confidence speak to you? What habits could we build to gain the kind of spiritual strength to know that God is at work in us no matter what our personal circumstances might be? How does one get that kind of faith?

### Step Out

Read Matt. 14:13-21. Adam Hamilton says that "when Christians get it right," they show great compassion for those who are suffering. God often sends **people** to aid and comfort those who are experiencing tragedy rather than directly intervening Himself. How do you see compassion as a necessary component of the Christian life? How has someone else's compassion toward you affected your faith? What are ways you can be the "hands and heart" of God when responding to others in crisis?

### Sermon Notes