**Homiletical Outline: Responding to Disaster**

**Sermon Purpose:** That my fellow Pastoral Ministries students will never cease to rely upon God, no matter what occurs in their lives.

**Homiletical Proposition:** Never cease to rely upon God no matter what happens!

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. (Image) . . . 17 year old in a tornado, hiding as only the bathroom is left standing,

[Terror] Why me? Spared? Punished?

[Horror] Finding what’s left of neighbors - Why Not me?

Move from him to us - tragedy is near us, all around us:

Victims of crime will come to you for counsel…what answer will you give them?

One day it will be our turn to be the victim…what answer will we cling to?

The Problem: Answers are not helpful or available.

What happens when we don’t have answers?

2. (Need) . . . We need more than answers.

The Bible teaches that there will come a day, when answers will not help us. We need a lifeline to securely hold our lives from being blown into the storm in times like this.

3. (Subject) . . . The only firm anchor point for us in times of trouble…

4. (Text) . . . Job 13:14, & Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, and Jeremiah 17:7-8

5. (Preview) . . . Find the only security for our lives in the midst of disaster

Then, we will discover the benefits of secure in times of disaster

And lastly, we will look at some ways we can secure our lives properly in preparation for disaster.

**BODY:**

1. The only security for our lives in times of Disaster comes by trusting in God. (Job)
   1. “Why?” is the wrong question to ask in times of disaster. We usually cannot know why, and the search to answer the question leads us into despair. (Ecclesiastes)
   2. The issue at stake in times of disaster is our trust in God. (Job)
   3. Image: Image: C.S. Lewis wrote the book, The Problem of Pain, but found the arguments unhelpful for a time as he faced his wife’s death, but there was a day when he regained his ability to “see through the tears”
   4. When we refuse to trust God is physical disaster, we lead our own lives into spiritual disaster. [Image: Gene Grounds’ story of betrayal led him into spiritual disaster.]
2. Those who trust God grow in times of Disaster.
   1. Trust maintains our connection to God, so that he can work in our lives.
   2. God is the source of comfort for us in times of trouble.
   3. God is a healer to us in times of trouble.
   4. God gives those who trust hope for a future without trouble.
3. How can we trust God when times of disaster come upon us and our congregation?
   1. Pray. Never stop talking to God. And when others are suffering, Pray with them—model trust for them by your presence and encourage them to put their trust into words. (Job 13:14b)
   2. Hold onto your spiritual routines and disciplines. Keep yourself in places and around people who will help you hear God. (Job’s friends)
   3. Establish a firm sign of your trust for a time when you’ll need it. Examples: A tattoo signifying the permanence of your resolve, keeping a journal to reread, etc. (Job 13:14a)

[Summarize & Repeat Application]

**CONCLUSION:**

1. (Review your structure). . .The only security for our lives in times of disaster come by trusting God.

Those who trust God grow in times of disaster.

Trust God when disaster comes upon you and your congregation!

2. (Refresh your image) . . . Image: Facing the death of my cousin last year.