

centerpiece

Why We Run to the Cross In View of the Virginia Tech Massacre

- We need comfort not denial.
- We need protection because we are not safe.
- We need a justice that finger-pointing can't give.
- We need mercy to avoid the wrath of God.
- We hope in a world full of death and despair.

Looking Back:

Where were you when you heard about the Virginia Tech massacre? What were your initial thoughts and feelings?

Looking Forward:

Look up the following Scriptures and discuss the following questions: **Comfort** (Ps.34:8; John 11:33; Phil.2:6) – How do you insulate yourself from the physical dangers and discomforts of this world? Describe an occasion when you willingly subjected yourself to physical danger or discomfort for the sake of another. What motivated you to do so? **Protection** (Ps.75:3; Rom.8:31-39) – How does our culture lure us into thinking that we can insulate ourselves from harm? How does the pursuit of maximum comfort & safety distract us from trusting God as we focus on sharing the love of Jesus? **Justice** (Deut.32:4; Is.5:16) – Why do we so quickly try to assign & shift blame when people commit violent acts against others? Why can't we fully exact justice & eradicate violence ourselves? **Mercy** (Micah 7:18; Rom.5:8-9; Rom.8:1) – How does the prospect of our holy God judging the thoughts & deeds of all men one day comfort you in this world of violence? If this prospect frightens you, have you come to the cross to receive God's mercy through Jesus? **Hope** (Titus 2:11-14; Rom.8:22-25; Rev.21:4) – What hope do you have to hold onto and share with others at times like these?