

HELP IN TIMES OF GRIEF

MARK 6:30FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you ever wonder if there is anything good to come from grief? Where is the good in broken hearts filled with sorrow?
2. Stepping into the life of Jesus, we can learn some things about how to manage our grief.

I. JESUS PERFORMED TWO MIRACLES

- A. Jesus feeds the five thousand.
 1. **MATTHEW 6.30-32:** Jesus was exhausted and was looking for a place to rest.
 2. **MATTHEW 6.33,34:** Though He was looking for solitude, He was *“moved with compassion.”*
 3. Why did Jesus feed the five thousand? He had a heart of a servant. (Mark 6.38,42,43; Matt. 20.28)
- B. Jesus walks on water.
 1. **MARK 6.45-47:** Jesus was finally able to be alone.
 2. **MARK 6.48-52:** Jesus saw His disciples in distress.
 3. Why did Jesus leave His place of solitude and help His disciples? He had the heart of a servant. (Phil. 2.5,7)
- C. These were two miracles performed during a time of grief.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.13:** *“When Jesus heard it...”* Jesus had been told about the death of John the Baptist. (v. 12)
 2. John the Baptist was special to Jesus. (Matt. 11.11)
 3. Jesus had the heart of a servant, but that heart was also filled with grief.

II. HOW CAN I BETTER MANAGE MY GRIEF?

- A. Find some time to be alone.
 1. Jesus looked for some alone time. (Mark 6.31,32,47)
 2. To help us manage grief, take some time by yourself to process everything. (cf. 2 Sam. 12.16)
- B. Find some time to be alone with God.
 1. Jesus was looking to be alone for a specific reason. He *“departed to the mountain to pray”* (Mark 6.46).
 2. Grief ebbs and flows. Taking it to God will make life a little easier to handle.

CONCLUSION: There is something special about being a Christian that give us hope from God and support from our family.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

March 28, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

JESUS UNDERSTANDS

The book of Hebrews was written to those who were struggling with their faith. To help, the writer sets Jesus before us as One who understands. We are told in Hebrews 2.18 that because Jesus *“suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”* Jesus understands because He experienced the same things. Three times in the New Testament we read about Jesus weeping. Twice was because of someone dying.

First, Jesus cried over the death of Lazarus. This is one of the most well-known Bible verses. John 11.35 says, *“Jesus wept.”* It is such a short verse, but there are so many painful emotions of grief reflected in this verse. Jesus lost his friend, and He was grieving.

Second, Jesus cried over His own death. In the garden of Gethsemane, we are told that Jesus *“offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears”* (Heb. 5.7). Jesus prayed with every fiber of His being begging God to *“let this cup pass from Me”* (Matt. 26.39). But God would not grant His request causing Him to pray from the cross, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* (Matt. 27.46).

If you are wrestling with the painful emotions that come with grief, know that Jesus grieves with you as One who understands. He knows what it is like to lose someone you love. Let the thought of Jesus who mourns with you bring you comfort. CLP

GOD'S OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE

EXODUS 11:4,5

INTRODUCTION:

1. The children of Israel had a day that was more significant than any other day of the year. It was the day death passed over.
2. **READ EXODUS 11.1-6:** There are some comparisons between the Passover and the relationship we have with God today.

I. GOD HAS HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE

- A. **EXODUS 11.7:** “...that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.”
 1. Moses relayed a message to Pharaoh. (Ex. 5.1)
 2. Pharaoh replied with an arrogant question which would be answered in the form of ten plagues. (Ex. 5.2)
- B. God has His own special people today.
 1. We are a “*chosen generation.*” (1 Pet. 2.9)
 2. Who are His own special people? Those who have received mercy. (1 Pet. 2.10)

II. WHEN DO WE BECOME HIS SPECIAL PEOPLE?

- A. God was very specific concerning the Passover. (Ex. 12.1-6)
 1. The time when they would choose a lamb. (vs. 1-3)
 2. The kind of lamb to be chosen. (vs. 4,5)
 3. The time of the sacrifice. (v. 6)
- B. God is very specific as to when we become His people.
 1. When I believe. (1 John 3.1; 5.1)
 2. When I repent. (Acts 26.18)
 3. When I am baptized. (Gal. 3.26-28)

III. WHY DO WE BECOME A CHILD OF GOD?

- A. God passed over the houses of Israel. (Ex. 12.7-13)
 1. Israel put blood on the doorposts. (vs. 7-11)
 2. When the blood was seen on the doorposts, the destroyer passed over those houses sparing them. (vs. 12,13)
- B. We become the children of God because of blood.
 1. We access the blood of Jesus by faith causing the wrath of God to pass over us. (Rom. 5.1,9)
 2. We are saved by His own blood. (Heb. 9.11-15)

CONCLUSION: The wrath of God is coming, but it will pass over those who receive His mercy.

WHY DO WE SERVE GOD?

In the third chapter of Daniel, we find King Nebuchadnezzar erecting in the plain of Dura, a golden idol whose height was 60 cubits. To put that into perspective, the ark that Noah built was 30 cubits (Gen. 6.15). Here is a golden statue that stood twice as tall as the ark. The king then issued a decree that “*at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image*” (Dan. 3.5). Anyone who failed to obey the king’s command would suffer the consequences. They would “*be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*” (Dan. 3.6).

I find it puzzling that the King Nebuchadnezzar would issue such a decree in light of what just happened. In the previous chapter, we read about a dream that was very troubling to the king. It was a dream that no one was able to interpret until Daniel. After Daniel interpreted the dream, King Nebuchadnezzar made the following statement: “*Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret*” (Dan. 2.47). Nebuchadnezzar praised God and worshipped Him. The very next chapter, we read about this same king erecting a gold idol and commanding it to be worshipped.

The friends of Daniel refused to bow down and worship this idol. They were brought before the king and were given one more chance to submit to the king’s command. They responded by again refusing to worship the gold idol believing that “*our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace*” (Dan. 3.17). But then they make this fascinating statement: “*But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.*” (Dan. 3.18).

These three men knew that God was able to save them. However, they were not going to rest their loyalty to God on whether or not He would do something for them. Even if He did not deliver them, they would remain faithful to Him. It was about who God was rather than what He would do for them. Do we serve God because we want His blessings? Do we turn away from God because He is not giving us what we think we need? Do we reject Him because He has not snatched us from the trials and sufferings of life? Should we not serve Him because of who He is rather than what He can do for us (Rev. 4.11)?