

How to Respond to the Death of a Loved One

Part I of II

June 23, 2024

I. Introduction

- A. I have been working on this message for 50 years.
- B. We need this now and guaranteed later.
- C. My goal: honor our Lord in thought, word and deed.
- D. We have been painfully reminded of the truth of Proverb 27:1. "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."
- E. Pain and grief are megaphones through which our God speaks to us. Do not try to side step them, instead embrace and squeeze them. Your prayer must be "Father, do not let me go through this and not learn everything you want me to learn."

II. God's Response – Psalm 116:15

- A. Questions?
 - 1. What does "precious" mean?
 - 2. Why is the death of our God's "loved ones" precious in His sight? It's a family reunion!
 - 3. Does He respond to all deaths this way? No! – Ezekiel 33:11
 - 4. How do you reconcile Romans 12:15 and Psalm 116:15
- B. Precious realities
 - 1. Thursday night Dallas and Heaven gained, and we suffer loss. At Calvary we gained, and Heaven suffered loss.
 - 2. According to Acts 7:55, 56 Jesus stood in love to welcome Dallas into heaven.

III. Our Biblical Response (I Pray!)

- A. Job: His initial response – Job 1:20-22
 - 1. His loss – 1:2, 3; 14-19; 2:7
 - 2. His response
 - a. He tore his clothes: a sign of grief
 - b. He shaved his head: a sign of losing personal glory
 - c. He worshipped: to fall prostrate in utter submission
 - 3. His confession: Ecclesiastes 5:15
 - a. I came with nothing, I leave with nothing

- b. Blessed be the name of God: much more of an intellectual acknowledgement.
 - i. Your mind works quicker than your emotions
- B. Job: His seasoned response – 42:1-6
(In Chapters 3-14 Job has, let's say, a relapse, and turned from defending God to defending himself. – Job 32:2; Genesis 15:1
 - 1. Job 42:1-6 is a summation of Job's response to 70 questions God asked him that he had no answer or response to – Job 38:1-41:34
 - a. You are omnipotent: all powerful – v. 2a
 - b. You are totally sovereign – v. 2b
 - c. I was not as smart or as godly as I thought – v. 3
 - i. Humility is required before one can see God clearly. Pain is the tool God uses most to accomplish this.
 - d. God's reward is that He reveals Himself to us. We see Him as never before. – v. 5 (John 20:21)
 - 2. Verses 1-6 are vertical, verses 7-9 are horizontal
 - a. When God works in your heart and deepens your relationship with Him it has good horizontal results. – v. 6
 - b. Let God take revenge – v. 7-8a
 - c. Pray for your enemies – v. 8b-9