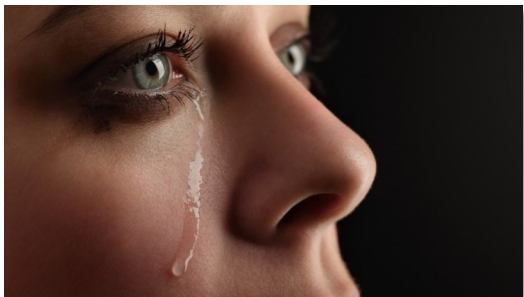


Blinded by Grief



As our study of "Blurry Vision" continues, we look at subjects that are difficult to understand and even more difficult to journey through. Grief is a major obstacle that keeps many from seeing God and seeing things as God wants us to.

A. John 11—The Resurrection of Lazarus

1. (3) "The sisters therefore sent to Him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.'"
2. (6) "When therefore He heard that he was sick, He stayed then two days longer in the place where He was."
3. (14) "Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead'"
4. (21) Martha says, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died"
5. (32) Mary says, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died"

It seems that both sisters felt that Jesus should have been there. There may be a bit of blame and finger pointing at Jesus.

B. Grief often leads a person to saying things that they wish they hadn't said

- the emotions of grief can crowd out reason and even faith itself
- it can lead a person to believe things that are not true
- it can make a person feel like God has given up on them
- the emptiness that grief causes can take a long time to fill and overcome

Seven Truths About Grief

1. Grief is more than just dealing with death. Grief takes on many forms (loss of friendship, moving away, loss of a job, even the consequences that our sins have caused)
2. Death is a part of this world. There is no escaping it, which means grief is a part of this world. You will experience it.
3. Sometimes our first introduction to death and grief comes from the death of a family pet.
4. The level of faith has a direct proportion to how we grieve. Hope and faith can make all the difference (1 Thes 4:13; Mt 7:24-25)
5. Grief, like a surgery, hurts. Time is a great healer.
6. Men and women grieve differently.
7. Grief is a journey. It can lead us closer to the Lord, or it can crush our faith.

The Seven Stages of Grief

- Shock & denial
- Pain and guilt
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Working through
- Acceptance

- ▶ Not everyone goes through all 7 stages and not always in the same order
- ▶ Some stay in one stage longer than others
- ▶ Some never accept death



Lessons about the storms in Job's life

1. They came quickly and unannounced
2. The storms came in multiple layers
3. The storms were life changing
4. It is easy to forget the many moments of sunshine in life
5. Satan was behind these storms

The First Chapter of Job Reveals Four Powerful Steps of a Man of Faith (1:20-22):

1. He worshipped (20)
2. He blessed God (21)
3. He did not sin (22)
4. He did not blame God (22)

1. The child of God views trials and difficulties differently than a person of the world
2. The child of God realizes that trials and difficulties can have positive results in his character
3. The child of God understands that some things are only produced through tough times
4. The child of God knows that he does not endure these trials alone

A Quick Seven Reminders

1. The goodness of God is not based upon how joyous or blessed our lives are
2. Knowing the cause or the reason of our pain doesn't lessen the hurt.
3. Our suffering will seem like nothing if we faithfully reach the other side (Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17)
4. What happens to us on the outside does not have to set the tone for what my insides are like (2 Cor 4:16)
5. Suffering can be the best thing to happen to me, if it brings me to God
6. God is always right
- 7.. Others are thinking about you without you even realizing it



- 1 Thes 5:14 help the weak
- Rom 12:15 weep with those that weep
- 1 Thes 4:18 comfort one another
- Gal 6:2 bear one another's burdens
- 2 Cor 7:6 encourage the depressed
- James 5:16 pray for one another

Some final thoughts:

1. Jesus cried (Jn 11:35). Tears are not wrong nor a sign of weakness or faithlessness
2. Solomon said there was a time to mourn and a time to weep. But he also said there was a time to laugh and a time to dance (Ecc 3:1-8)
3. Lean upon your brethren and look to God's word
4. Blame doesn't lessen your grief
5. Stick to what you know is right. Your foundation of faith will keep you from error and doubt
6. God loves you and is always there. He has never deserted you
7. We long for the place where there are no tears and death is no more
8. Getting to worship and being around people, especially brethren, are essential to your healing

