

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 30 June 2024

PENTECOST 6

TALKING ABOUT GRIEF AND LOSS

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

O God, shine on us with the light of your knowledge, and the fullness of all virtue, as we seek for the gifts of learning, we may never depart from you, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Why do you think we struggle talking about grief and loss ?

Worship 🎵

Read Psalm 22 1-5 together -God, God...my God!

Why did you dump me miles from nowhere?

Doubled up with pain; I call to God

All the day long. No answer. Nothing.

I keep at it all night, tossing and turning.

And you! Are you indifferent, above it all,

Leaning back on the cushions of Israel's praise?

We know you were there for our parents: they cried for your help and you gave it;

They trusted and lived a good life

Choose a few worship songs together. Amazing Grace, How great thou art 🎤

Word; Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; ² Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Word; 2 Samuel 1.17-27

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

¹⁷ David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

¹⁹ "A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ “Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice. ²¹ “Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil. ²² “From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

²³ Saul and Jonathan - in life they were loved and admired, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ “Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold. ²⁵ “How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. ²⁶ I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. ²⁷ “How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!”

COMMENTARY

Sorrow isn't limited to just a few sad moments, sorrow truly is an ongoing process. Grief remains with us. Even if we're thinking of one who has passed away, grief isn't absent. There's much hope and gratitude we feel for all who've died and gone to be with Christ, but grief still lingers. Our grief and emptiness not only erupted initially upon hearing the news for the first time, they truly do abide. However, because grief and sorrow abide with us, we as God's people need words fit for these seasons of our soul. And thankfully God has given us these various laments found throughout Scripture.

Q 2 David was absolutely gutted by the deaths of his friend Jonathan and his father Saul. He sang a lamentation for them. As we explore the World at present, how will people who have lost their loved ones to war move on. How do they deal with their grief? How did previous generations move on? Please discuss

Q 3 As we hear and reflect on David's story, we explore our own feelings about grief and loss, letting go and moving on. How did you move on after the loss of a loved one?

Q 4 Psalm 22 is a Messianic Psalm that Jesus prayed on the cross. Jesus too, experienced grief and pain. He cried when Lazarus died. He was fully human and understands our emotions. Do you share your pain with Jesus when you are grieving?

Works

Who can we reach out to this week who is grieving. Pray for each other

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

O God, God of grace, fill us with your Spirit, and support us by your gentle hands, that we may persevere in speaking your Word and living our faith, through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)