



Ministering to the grieving—Lessons from a couple who lost their son below 30 years of age

Losses happen to all of us. Many of us have lost loved ones as close as spouses, children, or parents and while we are in this life, we need to find ways to minister grace to people that are hurting. We need wisdom in what to say, how, and when to say. Words can be more hurting if said out of season. Proverbs 15:23 *A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!*

We need to be wise when using our words.

Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

- a) We also need to learn to weep with those that are weeping and give room for them to mourn and grieve. Grieving allows healing to occur. The length of the grieving may vary from person to person based on various factors such as how sudden the death was, the relationship and closeness with the deceased, and so forth.

Matthew 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

- a) When people are mourning, our role is to comfort them. This may look a little different for everyone.
- b) I have a very dear couple who are like parents to me. They lost their son at a very young age, and it almost destroyed them had it not been for the grace of God. One day while having a conversation with them, I asked them to help me understand how it feels and how they would have preferred to be ministered to. Below is what they said.

A. For the supporting person to the grieving:

- a) Don't say God this....; Don't say "there are people who are going through the same..."
- b) Just listen.... Do not talk.

- c) I will pray for you; Let me know if I can help you.
- d) Weep with those who weep.
- e) Spend time with them.
- f) Don't leave them alone. This will reveal to them that they are not alone.
- g) Allow them to grieve. Do not cut their time off. The time of grieving is not the same or
- h) Do not ask them questions. Not necessary.
- i) Do not ask that family how he/she died. Doesn't matter how he died.
 - i) Was he drunk?
 - ii) Was it AIDS?
 - iii) Was it cancer?

Who cares how the person died? Are you a police officer or investigator? Are you trusting to get justice for the deceased? What good can come out of these?

All these questions are not good, and it is irrelevant to investigate what happened or ask them such questions.

"Why did God do this to me?"

It is not a good time to answer this question even if you have an answer. It is time to mourn with those who mourn and weep with those that do and not to have a Q&A session. Ministers need to bite their tongues in an attempt to answer questions at the wrong time.

Never say these things: They bring hurt not healing.

- a) They have become an angel
- b) They are before God in heaven, even if they are.
- c) Was he born again?
- d) He or she was needed in heaven
- e) God works in mysterious ways.
- f) God called them home

B. For the grieving person

- a) Sometimes it takes changing the environment.

- b) Change of scenery.
 - i) Selling the house
 - ii) Give the clothes away—This can help in the healing process.

There is a lot you do not understand. Do not throw away your trust in the Lord even in the midst of sorrow and no understanding. Do not cast doubt on His love for you.

We know in part, and no one has all the answers neither can we know all the answers on this side. 1 Corinthians 13:9 *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

Closing thoughts:

Philippians 1:21-23 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*

- a) Some people have the desire to depart to be with Christ. They want to go, and nothing can stop them, no prayer, nothing.
 - i) I have heard stories where some people were praying for their loved one to be healed, yet he was saying he wants to go to be with the Lord. He was saying that he was ready. What do you do in such a situation? You can only let them be. They have chosen what they have, and you cannot change it. Knowing this can change how one would mourn or grieve.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Prayer:

If you are going through a loss, I would like to pray for you:

Father, I thank You for You are the Father of Mercies and God of all comfort “*Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God*” (2 Corinthians 1:4). I thank You that You are comforting this brother or sister that is mourning the loss of their

loved one. I pray that every need—spoken and unspoken be met supernaturally in this season in Jesus' Name. Amen.

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