

# **“GRIEVE WITH GOD”**

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17-27

GOD’S WORD: PSALM 130

## **I – WHAT TO GRIEVE:**

When we think about grieving we think of it in light of a death. We most closely associate it with the loss of a loved one in our lives. A person who had a place in our lives and is now no longer there. That someone has died and now no longer fills that place in our lives.

But I want to suggest to you that there are other things we grieve in life. Other things that leave a void or affect us so deeply we grieve when they are no longer there, or have changed from the things we want and expect to things we no longer recognize. These things can cause us to grieve also. This past year has been full of such things, like:

- The Pandemic and the changes we all had to make and deal with, like not going to work, not seeing our loved ones in hospitals or nursing homes. Not even having the usual holiday gatherings with family.
- Politics! This last political cycle polarized our country and beyond. It caused friends to turn against one another. It produced bad feelings, some of which resulted in pure hatred.
- Racism was brought to the forefront of our minds by the killings and protests that gave birth to such groups as Black Lives Matter. We may not agree with the agenda of such groups but we have had to stare the issue in the face and realize it still exists and is against the teachings of Jesus.
- Shootings. How can we not grieve in our hearts that children are killing children. That mass shootings are a daily occurrence. That there seems to be no end in sight.

These would be my top four. There are many others, some which may take a higher priority spot in your lives and hearts, but these are the four that seemed to bring me the most grief in the last year. The things I contemplated and prayed about on a regular basis.

## **II – HOW TO GRIEVE:**

So the question becomes how do you grieve? How do you work through these issues and get on with your life? How do you keep them from consuming you each and every day of your life?

A good grief support group helps. Pastor Becky leads one at our church that is open to anyone. You can contact her to get included. Or talk to someone who is already in it for more information (maybe have those in it stand up for people to see so they can talk to them).

You need to remember a couple of the basic rules of grief:

- You can do it now or have it surprise you later
- You have to go through it. You can't go over it, under it, or around it...you have to go through it.
- Everyone's grief may be similar but each of them are different. Different emotional levels, different time periods, different feelings.

But the main lesson I want to give you today is that you should GRIEVE WITH GOD. When you admit you're only human, when you admit you have limitations, when you admit that God can handle anything and everything then you will be on your way to recovery. Grief support groups and other things such as meditation are all great tools to help you through and hopefully all of them are pointing you in the right direction...GOD. The God who made you, the God who has been with you since before the beginning of your life, the God who thinks about you and is with you continuously. The God who loves you more than anything, will help you through it all. REMEMBER Psalm 139 the last two Sundays!

### III – TEXT:

That's the lesson I see in this week's text. The continuation of the story of David and Saul. You'll remember the last time we spoke God had rejected Saul as the king of Israel and had David anointed by Samuel to be the next king. Between that and today's reading it tells us how Saul continued to disappoint God. How he became jealous of David and tried to kill him. Drove him into exile as he hunted him to kill him. At the end of 1 Samuel we read how the Philistine's overcame Saul and his men and Saul and his son Jonathan were killed there. As we get to today's reading David has returned from his victory and is then given the news of Saul's and Jonathon's death. We read his reaction:

#### **2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 (NLT)**

After the death of Saul, David returned from his victory over the Amalekites and spent two days in Ziklag. David's Song for Saul and Jonathan

<sup>17</sup> Then David composed a funeral song for Saul and Jonathan, <sup>18</sup> and he commanded that it be taught to the people of Judah. It is known as the Song of the Bow, and it is recorded in *The Book of Jashar*.

<sup>19</sup> Your pride and joy, O Israel, lies dead on the hills!

Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen!

<sup>20</sup> Don't announce the news in Gath,

don't proclaim it in the streets of Ashkelon,  
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice  
and the pagans will laugh in triumph.

<sup>21</sup> O mountains of Gilboa,

let there be no dew or rain upon you,  
nor fruitful fields producing offerings of grain.

For there the shield of the mighty heroes was defiled;

the shield of Saul will no longer be anointed with oil.

<sup>22</sup>The bow of Jonathan was powerful,  
and the sword of Saul did its mighty work.  
They shed the blood of their enemies  
and pierced the bodies of mighty heroes.  
<sup>23</sup>How beloved and gracious were Saul and Jonathan!  
They were together in life and in death.  
They were swifter than eagles,  
stronger than lions.  
<sup>24</sup>O women of Israel, weep for Saul,  
for he dressed you in luxurious scarlet clothing,  
in garments decorated with gold.  
<sup>25</sup>Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen in battle!  
Jonathan lies dead on the hills.  
<sup>26</sup>How I weep for you, my brother Jonathan!  
Oh, how much I loved you!  
And your love for me was deep,  
deeper than the love of women!  
<sup>27</sup>Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen!  
Stripped of their weapons, they lie dead.

So the beginning of the book of second Samuel opens on a dangerous and insecure period in the history of Israel. It's between the death of one king and the ascension of another. The beginning of the book focuses on David's reaction to hearing the news of the deaths of the king and his son and the defeat of Israel's armies under his command.

One would expect David to be glad and rejoice. He will soon rise to the throne and rule Israel, and the man who had tried to kill him, had driven him into exile by hunting him was dead. But no...he grieves. He grieves by writing a song that speaks of the deaths.

Take note that his song of lament is about the people of Israel and what the defeat will mean to their honor and reputation. He then pronounces a curse on the mountains where the battle and deaths occurred.

His eulogy goes on to tell all the good that Saul and Jonathan had done for the people of Israel. He speaks well of Saul instead of recounting his insane jealousy or mad frenzies and attempts to kill him.

The final stanza recounts his loyal friendship with Jonathan who treated David like a brother and protected him from his father Saul.

But note that this is all written in a Psalm, in a prayer to God. David's lament was directed to God whom David trusted in all matters.

#### **IV – PSALM 130:**

The Psalm 130 we read this morning gives us this same message. It gives us an expression of what it feels like to be overwhelmed by circumstances and tell us who we should be seeking our help from:

<sup>1</sup> From the depths of despair, O LORD,  
I call for your help.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear my cry, O Lord.  
Pay attention to my prayer.

In other words, O God – HELP!

It lets us know that it doesn't matter if we are sick, depressed, persecuted, unemployed, having trouble with our spouse, can't pay the bills, or the children just won't listen...we can find our relief from distress, our hope in God.

The Psalmist portrays a sense of being overcome and says even in our sin our hope isn't in human worthiness, it's in God's generosity and forgiveness. Now we know it's in Jesus.

#### **V – GRIEVE WITH GOD:**

Grieve with God.

- No matter what your problem is.
- No matter what concern you have.
- No matter how your heart hurts.
- No matter what or who has let you down.
- No matter that you can't fathom a way out or a future.

You can grieve with the God of the universe. You can depend on God's steadfast and unfailing love.

As the Psalmist said:

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD;  
for with the LORD there is unfailing love.  
His redemption overflows.

No matter your problems, your worries, your grief there is one sure place to take them...God.

No one loved you before you were born like God did, no one will love you after you die like God will. No one loves you like God does.

Don't fall on your sword like Saul did...Fall on God's love instead.

AMEN