

How Believers Deal with Death

Text: Genesis 23

Context - Genesis 23 recounts Abraham's negotiation to purchase a burial site for his wife Sarah, highlighting his faith and respect for her memory while establishing a lasting connection to the promised land.

To properly grieve a death...

I. _____ **the Fallen (vs. 1-2)**

- A. In this passage we see Abraham mourning and weeping for Sarah after her death.
- B. Christian mourning and grief is biblical and healthy. Jesus wept at the funeral of Lazarus (John 11:35), and Christians are encouraged to grieve, but not without hope in 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

II. _____ **the Finances (vs. 3-16)**

- A. "Perhaps you thought that the expensive cost of funerals was a recent American phenomenon! But 4,000 years ago, Abraham was faced with the high cost of burying his wife. He had to take care of this business in the midst of his grief." (Stephen Cole)
- B. Christians need to be prepared for the cost of a funeral and should take precautions not to go into debt. Christians should also setup a will to assist those left behind. For free and recommended services - check floridabaptist.org.

III. _____ **the Fulfillment (vs. 17-20)**

- A. As the children of Israel were preparing to enter the promised land, Moses included this section of scripture to remind them that their forefather Abraham paid for legal title to this burial ground because he believed what God had promised. Abraham had faith in God's promise to give the land of Canaan to their descendants.
- B. This purchase of land and a cave within the promised land was the first acquisition of Abraham and his people. His descendants would inhabit the land 400 years later. As you grieve the loss of a loved one, continue to meditate on the unfolding promises of God.