

FINDING HOPE IN THE PAIN OF GRIEF

2 Sam 1:17-27 (Jan 27, 2019) Pastor Corey Rose

I. SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PAIN

- Pain is... **pain**.
- Pain is... **highly personal**.
- Pain tells me... **something is wrong**.
- Pain is... **a sign of life**.
- Pain is... **confusing, frustrating, and scary**.

Nowhere is pain greater, and more difficult to understand,
than when we... **lose a loved one**.

II. DAVID'S PAINFUL LOSS

- A. There is a terrible battle and... **Saul and his son, Jonathon, are killed**.
Now the Philistines attacked Israel, and the men of Israel fled before them. Many were slaughtered on the slopes of Mount Gilboa. The Philistines closed in on Saul and his sons, and they killed three of his sons— Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malkishua. ³The fighting grew very fierce around Saul, and the Philistine archers caught up with him and wounded him severely. Saul groaned to his armor bearer, "Take your sword and kill me before these pagan Philistines come to run me through and taunt and torture me." But his armor bearer was afraid and would not do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. (1 Sam 31:1-4 NIV)
- B. David and his men are... **devastated when they receive the news**.
David and his men tore their clothes in sorrow when they heard the news. ¹²They mourned and wept and fasted all day for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the LORD's army and the nation of Israel, because they had died by the sword that day. (2 Sam 1:11-12)

III. DAVID'S HEARTFELT LAMENT

- A. What is a lament?

A response when **deep pain** invades our lives.
Thoughtful **grief** or "**grief** put into words."

- B. What is true of David's lament?

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): (2 Sam 1:17-18)

- This is... **David's lament**.
- It focuses on... **Saul and Jonathon**.
- David requires that... **it be taught to the people of Judah**.
- The lament was written... **in the Book of Jashar**.

- C. How does the lament unfold?

1. David **announces** the tragic reality of the deaths of Saul and Jonathon - and the profound **loss** Israel now faces.

A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen! (1 Sam 31:19 NIV)

2. David grieves over the thought that his enemy's celebration of Saul's death is also a celebration that their own idols have won.
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. (1 Sam 31:20 NIV)
3. David grieves over what happened at the battle site and wishes for a permanent curse on the place where it all happened.
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. (1 Sam 31:21 NIV)
4. David grieves over the loss of two national heroes, both with noble qualities.
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. (1 Sam 31:22-23 NIV)
5. David expresses his deep, personal grief over the loss of his dear friend, Jonathon.
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!" (1 Sam 31:24-27 NIV)

IV. WHAT COULD DAVID'S LAMENT POSSIBLY TEACH THEM/US?

- A. People matter; relationships matter.
- B. We don't have to deny or hide our pain.
- C. In times of grief, we need to be careful.
 - That we don't... gloat or express any kind of vindictive satisfaction.
 - That we don't... believe that lamenting is admitting defeat.
 - That we don't... think we can't experience joy and peace in our lives.
 - That we don't... presume people around us know how to grieve.
 - That we don't... ever assume we know how to "fix" grieving people.
- D. God uses pain and grief in our lives.
My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. (Job 42:5 NIV)
Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies— so the living should take this to heart.³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. ⁴ A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time. (Ecc. 7:2-4 NLT)
- E. God even uses pain and grief to accomplish His purposes.

V. FINDING HOPE IN OUR PAIN

- A. God understands and cares about our pain.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. (Isa. 53:2b-4 NIV)
- B. God never asks us to understand pain and suffering, only to trust Him in and through it.
- C. Pain hasn't always been and it won't always be. (Gen 1-2; Rev 21:1-5)

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- B. We don't have to _____ or _____ our pain.
- C. In times of grief, we need to be _____.
 - That we don't...
 - That we don't...
 - That we don't...
 - That we don't...
 - That we don't...
- D. God uses _____ and _____ in our lives.
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