

A Time to Mourn – Lesson 7

Waiting in Hope

*“Wait on the LORD:
be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.”
Psalm 27:14*

Stages of Acceptance

- We come now to the final stage of the classic five stages of grief: acceptance.
- When we reach this stage, we really begin to observe the difference between mourning with and without the hope of Christ.
- Without Christ when a person reaches the acceptance stage, they are only left with resigning themselves to the loss and their own mortality.
- With Christ, the acceptance stage is a time for healing and hope.
- In *God’s Healing for Life’s Losses*, Kelleman divides the acceptance into four “Stages of Hope” that help bring healing.
- These stages, with their typical and Christian responses, are:
 - Regrouping – Waiting
 - Deadening – Wailing
 - Despairing/Doubting – Weaving
 - Digging Cisterns – Worshiping

Regrouping

- Regrouping takes matters into our hands.
- We want to “fix” the problems or “fill” the void left by our loss.
- Often, like Esau, we give into “instant gratification” with no concern for the future – Genesis 25:31-34, Hebrews 12:16

The Christian Response

- As a Christian, we trust in God’s plan and provision to work to His glory and our best interest – Romans 8:28
- We express that trust in *waiting* on Him.
- Kelleman defines waiting as “trusting God’s future provision without working to provide for oneself”.

- By regrouping we give into temptation that we can be whole by looking backwards or at our present, but by waiting we look forward to where God promises we can be.
- Moses exemplifies this trust in rejecting the instant comforts of Egypt he had at hand and instead working through faith for a greater reward – Hebrews 11:24-26
- Jeremiah beautifully expresses these thoughts of waiting, trusting, and hoping in Lamentations 3:21-26

Thoughts on Waiting

- Waiting is faith in action, not inaction.
 - The Hebrew word typically translated “wait” is *qavah* (Strong’s H6960), which carries the idea of binding or collecting. Some say it is the idea of braiding a rope. It does not imply lack of activity.
- Waiting gives God the time to work on us, molding our beings and desires for what He has in store.