

A Time to Mourn – Lesson 9

A Better Perspective

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
Romans 8:18

Stages of Acceptance

- 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

Despair

- The result of our attempts to handle grief and sorrow on our own is to despair.
- Where hope looks forward to healing, despair only looks forward to continued struggles.
- Despair is linked to doubt, in that when we doubt God’s goodness or greater plan then our hearts turn from hope to despair.

The Christian Response

- As Christians, we have faith and hope that our God is working to His glory even in the darkest of times.
- We often need to check our perspective and not see our situation through the eyes of despair but rather through the eyes of grace.
- Kelleman describes this as *weaving* or *perceiving with grace*, which he defines as “entrusting myself to God’s larger purposes, good plans, and eternal perspective”.
- The idea of *weaving* comes from the Hebrew word *chashab* (Strong’s H2803) that appears in Genesis 50:20:
 - “But as for you, ye thought [*chashab*] evil against me; but God meant [*chashab*] it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”
 - *Chashab* has a complicated definition meaning, but basically means “to think” or “to account”. Strong’s notes that its root means “to plait or interpenetrate, i.e. (literally) to weave or (gen.) To fabricate; figuratively, to plot or contrive (usually in a malicious sense)”

- Joseph acknowledges both the evil plans of his brothers but does not despair of them because of the hope he has in the good plans of the Lord.
- We must keep our minds and eyes on the fact that God “weaves” all things to His glory and our good – Romans 8:28
 - The question is whether we look at our problems with the human eyes or with spiritual eyes.
- Having this perspective does not remove the pain or struggles but it does remove the despair and hopelessness they can generate within us.
- Kelleman uses the following math expression to illustrate God’s work: “present suffering plus God’s character equals future glory”

Thoughts on Weaving

- Too often we focus on the problem from our perspective without considering God’s perspective. – II Kings 6:15-17
- While we have not used a lot of Scripture in this lesson, there are many examples of those that endured suffering with an eye to their future glory.
 - Examples: Joseph, Moses, David, and Paul.