

# Take It Home

Applying the Preached Word



## John: When Grief Comes

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### Text

John 11:30-37

### Main Point:

Those who know Christ will grieve but they can grieve in faith.

### Key Ideas:

Grief comes from many experiences. When we experience loss we will grieve. How can we grieve in faith-sustaining ways?

1. Understand that weeping is the appropriate response to many difficulties we face in this world
  - Though Jesus had the ability to heal and raise from the dead, he was emotionally broken by the experience of loss.
  - Jesus is the man of sorrows. He knows grief and loss.
  - The presence of grief is not the absence of faith.
2. Understand and battle some of the temptations that come with grief
  - We can be tempted to forget the blessings of the Lord. John Flavel said, "whatever God takes, be still thankful for what he leaves behind."
  - We can be tempted to allow our fellowship with Christ to be disturbed. We need to guard against hard thoughts of God.
  - We can be tempted to neglect the care of our bodies.
  - We can be tempted to find solace in sorrow. Grief can never become our accepted identity or state of life.
  - We can be tempted to reject the counsel and comfort of others. Grief wants to isolate us. We must not let it.
3. Embrace the reasons we have for hope in Christ through our grief
  - Strong grief and strong faith can exist together.
  - In Jesus we have a Savior to calm our anxious hearts.
  - In Jesus we have a Savior who moves toward us in our grief
  - A day is coming when grief will end. We won't simply get over it. We will be delivered into the Resurrection and the Life!

### Fellowship Starters

*Treasure - Application to stir our love for Christ*

1. Use the lyrics from "It is Well" to reflect on how the Gospel speaks to our experience of grief (Jared shared the story of the writing of this hymn)

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2. If you have had a significant grieving experience are there any scriptures, songs, hymns, books, poems, messages, etc that met you in that season and helped you look to Christ?

*Grow - Application to stir our obedience to Christ*

3. If you have walked through a grieving time what would you tell someone who wants to help a person in grief? How would you advise them?

4. Are there any of the temptations Jared referenced above that you encountered in your time of grief? How did you deal with them?

5. How can we as brothers and sisters help people who are grieving more effectively?

*Proclaim - Application to stir our witness for Christ*

6. If we are aware of someone who has no profession of faith in Christ who experiences grief how can we bring the love of Christ in a truly helpful way?

## **Quotes From: Divine Delay**

"Contrary to what we might think, God says that strong faith can coexist with emotional highs, lows, and everything in between. It is a myth that faith is always smiling. The truth is that faith often feels like the very ordinary process of dragging one foot in front of the other because we are conscious of God."

~ Ed Welch