

SERMON 2 SAMUEL 1 'LEARNING TO GRIEVE' Series David #10  
IBC Eindhoven, 10 November 2019

INTRODUCTION

With all the bad news today, we miss the lament. Human life doesn't matter as life - God given. It only counts as news. There is no dignity to any of it.

Grief is a very difficult subject to deal with in an intercultural setting. Biblical teaching is rooted in Israel's history and therefore culturally determined - but its application transcends time and culture - the how is the difficult subject of hermeneutics. So listen, pray and share, believing the Holy Spirit will guide you on your way to become more the man and the woman God has called you to be.

2 SAMUEL 1

1. David grieves - (doesn't grab the crown)
  - To the astonishment of the Amalekite and possibly his men
  - We don't feel sorry for David - but admiration
  - For David there is more than Saul's hatred: it was God's anointing of Saul
2. This lament of the bow is to be taught
  - Bow: it is a martial ode - written in the book of Jashar (=Righteous)
  - People had to memorise it, inhabit it as their experience
3. How the mighty have fallen! - 3x 19,25,27
  - Saul and Jonathan - both named 4x
  - Both are mourned and in the mourning both are dignified
4. Tell it not in Gath..
  - Only Israel can know what this loss means
  - An outsider can never know - they must leave a family or clan to its grief, or misconstrue
5. David grieves for Jonathan
  - Words matter
  - Their friendship was based on more than thin pleasure in one another
  - D&J shared a common love for beauty, truth and goodness

LEARNING TO GRIEVE

1. Grief is facing the reality of death
  - Pain, being hated, separated, death are not the worst things BUT failing to deal with reality
  - Danger of denial >> addiction
    - Workaholism - alcoholism, preoccupies /drugs us with the impersonal so that we lose capacity to deal with the personal details and intimate feelings of loss
  - Danger of distraction >> depression
    - Cumulative result of years and years of minimising the realities of loss and death, failure and disappointment
    - Today a widespread inability or refusal to face pain, face rejection and frustration, enduring not having what we want
2. Mourn with the mourners
  - Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26
    1. Don't ask how are you doing?
    2. Don't encourage to get over it
    3. Don't say that you understand
    4. Don't talk about different phases of grief
    1. Do greet
    2. Do listen and be there
    3. Do serve
    4. Do share memories
3. Proclaiming the death of Christ
  - 1 Corinthians 11:26

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Mourn with the mourners (Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26): look at the list above and add suggestions to these.
2. Share your thoughts on traditions on grief in your home country.
3. Grief is facing the reality of death. Do you recognise the denials and distractions in our modern era? How can the church fellowship be a counter culture in this area?
4. Proclaiming the death of Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:26. But our Lord is risen and is sitting at the right hand of the Father. So what does this mean and why should we still need to proclaim his death?
5. Who would like to share about the loss and death that has struck you lately? Take time to lament and pray for each other .