MOURN – TEXT: Genesis 22:20-23:20

How do we RESPOND in FAITH to the reality of DEATH? Remember…

DEATH is INEVITABLE: Genesis 23:1–2

1) **We are DUST in the WIND**: Ecclesiastes 3:20, 12:7. See: Gen. 3:19
2) **Our DAYS are NUMBERED and OUR JUDGMENT is CERTAIN**: Hebrews 9:27b. See also: Psalm 139:16; Job 12:10, 14:5; Acts 17:25; Romans 14:9; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-12
3) **We all DIE because ADAM SINNED and we INHERIT sin's penalty, presence and power in our OWN LIVES**: Romans 5:12 See: Gen 2:17
4) **REMEMBERING the inevitable REALITY OF DEATH, enables us to LIVE WISELY**: Psalm 90:12. See also: Psalm 39:4; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

MOURNING is NORMAL: Genesis 23:2b

1) **Jesus MOURNED (and MOURNS with US)**: John 11:33–35
2) **We GRIEVE DIFFERENTLY as PEOPLE of FAITH in JESUS**: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 See also: Lev. 19:28; 2 Samuel 12:20-23
3) **We GRIEVE with CERTAINTY that DEATH does NOT have the LAST WORD**: Romans 8:38–39
4) **RIGHT MOURNING helps us LIVE DIFFERENTLY**: Ecclesiastes 7:2
5) **Healthy grieving FREES us to MOVE FORWARD**: Genesis 24:67–25:2

LIFE is SHORT and our STAY HERE is TEMPORARY: Genesis 23:3–4. See also: Psalm 39:12

1) **NO one LIVES (in this body) FOREVER:** Psalm 90:10. See also: Genesis 6:3; Ecclesiastes 3:2
2) **God ALONE REIGNS over ALL the EARTH at ALL TIMES:** Lev. 25:23
3) **We're ALL TEMPORARY RESIDENTS of HIS EARTH**: 1 Chron. 29:15
4) **AND we EMBRACE that IDENTITY because it FREES us to LIVE DIFFERENTLY**: 1 Peter 2:11. See also: John 15:19, 17:16

ONLY SOME INVESTMENTS LAST:

1) **God PROMISED Abraham a LAND for HIS PEOPLE:** Genesis 17:8 See: Genesis 13:14; 15:7, 18-20; Hebrews 11:8-9
2) **Abraham INVESTED deeply in GOD'S yet unfulfilled PROMISES**: Genesis 23:4, 16, 20. See also: Genesis 25:8-10
3) **We're COMMANDED to INVEST our LIVES in the FULFILLMENT of God's eternal PROMISES**: Matthew 6:33
4) **We can TRAGICALLY end up INVESTING in that which is merely TEMPORARY**: Luke 12:18–20 See also: Mark 8:36; 1 Tim. 6:17
5) **Because DEATH does NOT HAVE the LAST WORD we can INVEST OUR LIVES CONFIDENTLY in the PRESENT**: 1 Corinthians 15:53-58 See also: Isaiah 25:8; Hosea 13:14; Romans 8:18-25; Galatians 6:9

GOD alone is completely TRUSTWORTHY in both LIFE and DEATH: Hebrews 11:13–14

1) **God is PREPARING a HOMELAND for ALL who TRUST in the GRACIOUS WORK of JESUS**: Heb 11:16. See: Jn 14:2–3; Rev. 21:1-2
2) **We will be FOREVER in HIS PRESENCE where DEATH, SUFFERING and GRIEF will be put away**: Revelation 21:3–4 See: Rev 20:14
3) **OUR true CITIZENSHIP is in HEAVEN where we will have NEW, ETERNALLY GLORIOUS BODIES**: Phil. 3:20–21 See: 1 Cor. 15:48-52
4) **Because JESUS LIVED, DIED and WAS RAISED for US**…
   a) **Sin's PENALTY is REMOVED and we're COUNTED forever RIGHTEOUS before God**: Romans 5:18-19
   b) **Sin's POWER is DEFEATED**: Romans 5:17 See: Hebrews 2:14-15
   c) **Sin's PRESENCE is OVERCOME by GREATER GRACE**: Romans 5:20–21

"Gospel In Life" questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with?
6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK**: Read Genesis 24