

Father's Day - remembering my dad

Reflect on our loss - our new reality

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. 26 They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish. Do you believe this, Martha (John 11:25-26 - NLT)?"

Jesus tried to point them to eternal truths and realities

Our new reality...

- Our interrupted routines
- Value that we lost - depending on the relationship
- Our plans
- Our self-perceptions

Recognize who else is with us

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... (Hebrews 12:1a - NKJV)

Celebrate the life we lost

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from all their toils and trials; for their good deeds follow them (Revelation 14:13 - NLT)!"

21 For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better. 22 Yet if I live, that means fruitful service for Christ. I really don't know which is better (Philippians 1:21-22 - NLT).

So we are left with the memories that we celebrate...

...and the lives that he touched that live on

Learn some lessons for our next stage in life

1. The value of speaking the truth in love
 - The greater the stakes...
...the higher the value of truth telling
2. The value of clear communication
 - The greater the fear...
...the more difficult to hear the truth

- The more important the information...
 - ...the clearer and more simply we need to communicate
- 3. Values-based decisions can be difficult to make
 - Our emotions get tangled with our values
- 4. Clichés are both comforting and misleading
- 5. How we pray for a long life must include the impact on others
- 6. The power of blessing
- 7. The reality of heaven make all the difference
 - The certainty of Jehovah God makes all the difference

It makes some Bible passages REAL

51 But let me tell you a wonderful secret God has revealed to us. Not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die. 53 For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die. 54 When this happens -- when our perishable earthly bodies have been transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die -- then at last the Scriptures will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 15:51-57 – NLT)!

1 "Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. 2 There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am (John 14:1-3 – NLT).

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true (Revelation 21:5 – NLT)."