

"Love is something You do." The Beatitudes



Regardless of how much we care, or how much money we have, or how much we love someone on this earth, we all know in our heads that this life will end, and we will mourn the loss of loved ones. But if we believe in Christ as our personal Savior, we also know that there is a better life ahead. However, we don't fully understand it. We are here, and this we know. We haven't seen it. We can't control it; we can't touch it, and therefore we sometimes fear the unknown.

How often when a loved one has died, we mourn their loss. Yet, we know in our heart and soul that they are in a better world if they knew Christ as their personal Savior. If we know this also, we can take comfort in that knowledge. It isn't easy. Eugene H. Peterson puts it this way in his translation, THE MESSAGE. "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One dearest to you."

I have heard people say that they will never forget the loved one they lost. I agree. We don't want to forget that one. They were and are precious to us. We shared a love that we could understand whether it be a parent, a mate, a child, or a friend. I can remember a friend's telling me that it would take five years to get over my mother's death. I hasten to add, that it has been many years (far more than five), and yes, I have accepted it, and I have been comforted because I know where she is, but I still miss her. I miss many things about her and am thankful for those memories, the caring, the discipline, the teaching, and the love. I saw a calligraphy once that read: "When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure." That is so true.



As I can see it, we have two choices in this. We can love these people dear to us each day and tell them that we love them, knowing that one of us may not be on this earth tomorrow, but we also, perhaps more - if not just as important

- need to make sure that we tell them, and all people about this wonderful life that is ahead of us if we have accepted Christ as our personal Savior. We need to contact that relative or friend that we have not taken time to visit or call. We mourn not only the loss of a loved one but the loss of a business, a neighborhood, a way of life, etc. We can't change it back to the way it was. But, through Christ we can find comfort.

We have a wonderful life here. It is difficult to imagine that things could be so much nicer. But, we are guaranteed they are. I often think of the love I have on this earth, and the poet Robert Frost who wrote in one of his poems,

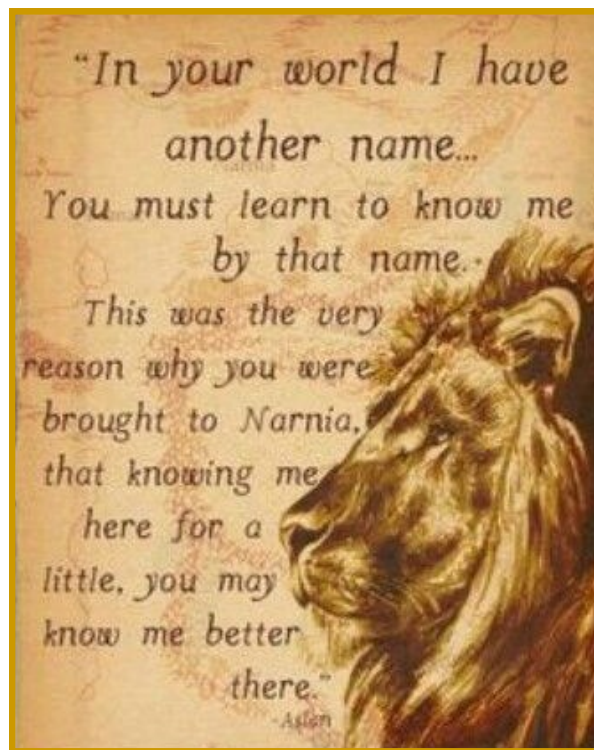
*"And were an epitaph to be my story
I'd have a short one ready for my own.
I would have written of me on my
stone: 'I had a lover's quarrel with
the world.'"*

Do we have a lover's quarrel with the world? What does that mean? I don't know what Robert Frost meant. But that line has given me an insight to the world. A poet is able to throw a thought to us with a very few words, and then others spend years telling us what it meant. Robert Frost did not have an easy life, but I believe he knew his God and loved him. Loving may hurt at times.

*"The best and most beautiful
things in this world cannot be
seen or even heard but must be
felt with the heart."* Helen Keller

I wonder if God had a “lover’s quarrel” with the world. God gave everything that anyone could possibly want. And He gave us, along with that, the ability to make choices. He gave us “free will” to do what we want. As a result, Adam and Eve weren’t satisfied with having everything they needed and wanted more. (Maybe if they hadn’t eaten from that tree and seen themselves naked, we would all be running around naked today. That is a scary thought!) But we can’t say it was always just Adam and Eve. It was true of many people in the Old Testament. Remember another time things got so bad that God flooded the earth and tried to start over. But we are human and we always want more- so we quarrel with what we have. It is true of each one of us today.

Isn’t that what we sometimes do with Christ? We say we accept Him as our Savior and want to worship Him and do His will, and then we do it “our way.” We are often dissatisfied, and we will quarrel with those we love, and we will mourn over their leaving this earth, but we are promised that if we love Christ as our personal Savior, we will be blessed. We



will cry and be sorry. Our love will never go away. The promise of our being with our loved ones who knew Christ is a wonderful, peaceful promise that can only come from God. The whole concept is not easy to understand, and we often wonder. Our faith wants to have a concrete answer. I once read where a person thought it would be a wonderful idea if we could visit Heaven just to see our loved ones. We can only have faith. Yes, we are blessed when we mourn if we know our Savior.



“Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil for You are with me.” Psalm 23:4

“Tears do not flow only from the pitiful and the weak. They spring also from the love and tenderness of the strong. We should never be ashamed of our tears, whether in private sorrow or public grieving. Tears alleviate our grief and encourage the healing of our wounds.”

Anonymous

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have instructed us to love You with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves. Sometimes this is hard to do, but with Your help we can do it. Help us to show that love to others every day, not just on Sunday or when they are ill or needy. And, dear Lord, help us to live each day to its fullest because we don’t know what tomorrow will bring. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

1. How can mourning be a blessing to the one losing a loved one or a job?
2. How can we be a blessing to someone mourning?
3. How can we receive blessing from others during rough times in our lives?
4. How can we be the spark that helps just one person at a time through a daily crisis or troubled time?
5. Do we have a “Lover’s quarrel” with the world, with other people?

© rgscripts
info@rgscripts.com



1 Corinthians 13: 4-7