

Praying for Soma Tacoma in the midst of death

Let us grieve

Psalm 77:3, 7-9 "You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak... Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?"

Psalm 42:2-3 When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"

The psalmist was raw, honest and even questioned the very nature of God. Feel the freedom to bring your honest thoughts to God. He can take it. He is infinitely mature. He won't get defensive. He's not looking to correct you. He already knows your thoughts and invites you to come to him with all of them, even if you have no words to say.

Romans 12:15: "Weep with those who weep"

Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants."

Lamentations 3:33 "for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men."

All of God's children are precious to him. Therefore, God hates the death of his saints. He never intended it for any of his creation. It is appropriate, then, for us to join God in his posture toward death, just as Jesus demonstrated throughout his time on earth. Though we may be tempted to move toward some action that allows us to forget, or avoid, we must sit with the pain of this loss. Let us linger in tears as Jesus did over Lazarus (John 11:35). We are called to mourn. We are called to weep. We are called to wonder over the mystery and tragedy of death in this fallen world.

Let us pray

2 Cor 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Let us pray the Father would comfort all who loved Randy, especially Lisa and the kids.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction... From 2 Cor 1:3-4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Mat 5:4

Let us pray for the Sheets family that they would have all the care and resources they need now and for all the years to come.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Let us pray for freedom from guilt and shame.

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore...

Many people are struggling with “what ifs” and feeling burdened by shame and guilt over what they did or didn’t do. Let’s pray the Spirit continues to remind the Soma Tacoma family that Jesus himself died to set them free of guilt and shame.

Let us pray that Soma Tacoma will not only survive but thrive in the years to come.

In the Bible and throughout history, God used circumstances that should have destroyed the church to dramatically strengthen the church. It’s counterintuitive to us much like the gospel -- the execution of the Messiah seemed like the end to the disciples, but it began the renewal of all things. God is so mighty that he can even take things intended for evil and use them for good. (Gen 50:20)

Dear Father, we groan with wordless groans for the Sheets Family; for Lisa and the kids. It is too much for us to bear. We beg you for tender mercies. We plead with you over the cause of the widow. We cry out to you in our utter despair. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Let us hope

1 Corinthians 15:26–27 “The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

1 Corinthians 15:54–55 “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

1 John 3:8 “The devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Death cannot, and simply will not have the final word in God’s perfectly ordered universe. All things are subject to His will. And therefore, Jesus made Himself subject to The Father’s will, conquering death through His resurrection. We weep and we mourn, but not without hope.

R.C. Sproul Jr., foreword from *The View From a Hearse*

“Death still inhabits my home. He has grown more silent, perhaps for a time licking his wounds. But he will come back and try again. And again he will lose. All because two thousand years ago, in an insignificant corner of the Empire, Jesus walked into the new garden of the new world. Now all the world is Jesus’ house, and Death is just waiting in it, waiting to die. Jesus haunts him.”