

Meeting the Ups and Downs of Life – Week 10

Lesson 4.2 – When a Loved One Dies Suddenly

Life Example

Robert owned and operated a successful funeral home. Married for 42 years, he and his wife, Darla, had three children. They were active in their local WELS church. They both enjoyed good health, and they looked forward to retirement in a few years. Three days after Christmas, Darla received a phone call from a police officer, telling her that Robert had been taken to a local hospital after being involved in a car accident. At the hospital, Darla was met by a doctor who explained that Robert had suffered such massive injuries that he had died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Reflections of Faith

1. What might be Darla's immediate reaction when she hears the news of Robert's death?

Light from the Word

2. Read **Job 1:21**. Give the background of Job's statement. What happened to him up to this point?

- a. What is the key message of comfort in this passage?

- b. In what ways could this verse be used in Darla's situation?

3. Go to **John 11:25-26**. Knowing the context of these verses, what is the key comfort that you could use in talking with Darla?

4. What difficulties exist for those who grieve as they hear these messages of comfort?

Darla struggled through the funeral. In a constant daze, she wept almost constantly. Nothing her children or grandchildren did or said seemed to offer her any help or comfort. Even though the funeral service was very comforting and Christ-centered, and even though her pastor visited Darla six times during the next month after the funeral, Darla still feels very much in a daze.

Light from the Word

10. Let's look up a few passages that might be of value for Darla in her situation. As we read each passage, consider how you would use those words to encourage, comfort, and support Darla as she faces the tasks ahead of her.
- a. **Galatians 6:2** –
 - b. **Hebrews 13:5-6** –
 - c. **Romans 12:6-8, 15** –
11. Now let's look up a few passages that will definitely be of value for Darla as she lives life with this (still very fresh) grief. What truths from the following verses will sustain and support Darla?
- a. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** –
 - b. **1 Corinthians 15:51-57** –
 - c. **Revelation 21:3-5** –

Further Discussion

12. What might be some additional challenges for those who suffer the sudden death of a small child? To keep things a little more focused, let's say the child was healthy and baptized, but died as the result of an accident (traffic, drowning, etc.).
13. Our priorities may or may not reflect the understanding that death can come at any moment (just like the return of Christ). What things can you do:
- a. To be prepared for your own death?
 - b. To help loved ones in the event that you would die suddenly?

What other thoughts and questions do you have?

Closing Prayer 552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is v. 4
**In death's dark vale I fear no ill with you, dear Lord, beside me,
your rod and staff my comfort still, your cross before to guide me.**