

41.3 God Knows Grief, Too

Greetings Patriots, this is PMG with GNA. Today is another installment of our grief recovery series. Someone asked me why I included the topic of “Grief” in my podcasts since GodNAmerica is primarily about “Telling His story in our history.” There are a couple of reasons.

The first reason is that grief inundates our lives. Every one of us has or most likely will experience grief in some capacity. I have had to deal with grief in the loss of my wife and my parents to death. I also am grieving the condition of our nation and world. Perhaps you experience these issues, too.

The second reason is that we need God in America. Grief is a door that can bring God into or back into our lives. God is the great Healer, and He can come to us through our grief to heal us as individuals and then as a nation.

Today I want to talk about God’s grief. I am calling this podcast “God Knows Grief, Too.”

I don’t fully understand grief, even though I know its reality. God gives people the capacity to grieve first because He created us in His image. God is capable of grief and gives us the same ability. When Jesus, God in the flesh, went to the tomb of Lazarus, He wept according to John 11:35.

Jesus knew He would resurrect Lazarus. Despite this knowledge, He experienced the loss of His friend and the corresponding emotions. He also grieved the effects of death on Lazarus’ sisters, Martha and Mary.

God the Son grieves, but so does God the Father. When the depravity of humanity became so great, God grieved that He had created us. Genesis 6:5-8 (NKJV) reads:

⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Have you ever wondered how bad it must have been on earth in those days? We think the world is evil now. What must it have been like to have lived in a place where every thought of people was evil continually? God determined to correct our wrongs by scrapping the original creation with a flood and starting over with Noah. He acted in His grief.

The most outstanding example of God’s grief comes at the cross. To redeem lost humanity, Jesus had to be our sin offering. God stood by helplessly as His one-of-a-kind Son cried out to Him in agony. In all of our depravity, humanity killed the innocent Son of God on a cross.

Jesus knew He had to die for the sins of the world. John 19:28-30 (NKJV) reveals the time of His death.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” ²⁹Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. ³⁰So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Matthew tells us that at the moment Jesus died, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom along with some other signs. Notice Matthew 27:51-53 (NKJV):

⁵¹Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵²and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep

were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

God made some changes with the death of His Son. One of the changes is that we now have direct access to Him through Jesus, not earthly priests. Opening the veil reveals our access.

The torn veil also shows that God changed His address. He moved from the Most Holy Place in the temple to dwell in the hearts of His people. The day of Pentecost in Acts 2 verifies this change of location. God always wanted to live in the midst of or within His people, according to passages like Deuteronomy 23:16. This text tells us God can dwell “among (i.e., in the midst of) people,” or we can translate it as “within His people.”

The Jewish people have a curious custom. When they hear bad news, such as the death of a loved one, they tear their clothes. One example is Matthew 26:65 (NKJV), where the high priest expresses grievous emotion towards Jesus.

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

God may have conveyed intense emotion at the passing of His Son by tearing the veil of the temple. His sorrow was evident.

Death is part of life. There have only been two exceptions to the rule, as far as we know. One is Enoch, and the other is Elijah. The only other possible exception is if we are alive when Jesus returns. If he delays His return, we will die someday in the future. But, our grief is now. Our loved ones have died and left us in the world. So we grieve.

As I have mentioned numerous times, our grief brings us closer to God. God is called the “Father of mercies and God of all comfort” in 2 Corinthians 1:3. God WANTS to comfort and care for us. He may supernaturally do that. More likely, He will do that through people in a providential way. Either way, God offers us comfort in our times of intense sorrow.

One day God will end all sorrow according to Revelation 21:4. That time hasn’t come. We long for that day, but we deal with our losses for now. We take one day at a time. We cannot run from our grief, so we lean into it with the help of God.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV):

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Life is not easy, especially when we are grieving. We feel burdened down and weary. God can take our time of grieving and get our attention. Then Jesus promises to lighten our load and give us rest. Why not trust Him with our grief since we know He understands what we are going through?

Keep The Light of God’s Healing Burning!