

Couples In Bloom – Embracing Loneliness

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When Jesus took our sin upon himself at the crucifixion, He felt the presence of God leave Him (because sin separates us from God) and asked, “Why have you forsaken me?” ⇒ Matthew 27:46. He was rejoined with God as soon as the payment was complete ⇒ Matthew 26:29. After this, notice that the **last thing Jesus said on earth directly addressed loneliness**: “I am with you always, even until the end of the world.” ⇒ Matthew 28:20.

When a loved one dies, those remaining **experience loneliness**. God repeatedly addresses this by emphasizing the importance of taking care of widows and orphans. God also says to care for those that are rejected, such as the prisoner, the homeless and the sick ⇒ Matthew 25:31-40. He connects this caring with having a relationship with **Him!**

We **choose loneliness** when we need uninterrupted time (not all loneliness is negative) ⇒ Mark 1:35. **This** loneliness maximizes the focus, purpose and benefit of this time. **Think about this positive loneliness when going through negative loneliness**. We all have troubles in life, but God redeems them for our good ⇒ John 16:33; Romans 8:28.

Actual help comes through **actually** believing and living out God’s Word. Remember:

1. God has **not** left us ⇒ Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5.
2. We do **not** see things clearly yet ⇒ 1 Corinthians 13:12.
3. God **is** with us in even the worst situations, including facing death ⇒ Psalm 23:4.

Keeping these truths foremost in our mind prevents us from making our loneliness worse.

They calibrate our thinking; then we can cry like we HAVE a redeemer: in faith.

The purpose of loneliness is *not* loneliness; it is a tool for a much higher purpose. Faith-based reasoning takes a lot of getting used to but serves us very well ⇒ 2 Kings 7; Isaiah 1:18. The only reason we should think like this is that God is Lord of everything. Without an Almighty God, faith would be false, cruel and stupid. With Him, all things become possible ⇒ Luke 18:27. This is why **HAVING** faith (**right now**) is so important.

Kathy has had various major health problems lasting decades, which have become depressing at times. When Jesus’ disciples saw a multi-decade illness, they asked, “Who sinned, this man or his parents” to which Jesus replied, “Neither; it is so the works of God can manifest through him.” ⇒ John 9:2-3. TIME OUT before we finish our story:

Jesus’ answer raises a huge question: Is the misery of lifelong suffering worth having the Almighty God work through us one day? The answer depends on how we frame our life. Hebrews 11: 13-16 ⇒ says to make up our minds whether our life priority is earth or Heaven. This seems like rough advice for someone who is hurting, but does reveal how important the question is. It distinguishes between temporal and eternal.

What can we DO with loneliness (right now)? Spouses need to be Jesus to each other, and say as Jesus said to the bride of Christ, “I am with you always, even until the end of the world.” ⇒ Matthew 28:20. BACK TO our story: Kathy is committed to God because she knows He is committed to her. Loren reminds her that God **will** manifest His work through her loneliness one day. He also tells her that he will never leave her, either. **We embrace loneliness**, believing God’s Word has to be true. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone