

Daily Devotion For July 5, 2020

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”**

Romans 12:15

Yesterday, besides being the celebration of our nation’s birth would have been my 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. Kazuko and I were married at the El Estero Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1987. Sherry and I went to Kazuko’s burial site to wish her a Happy Anniversary.

One of the lessons we have learned as we have been studying the book of Job is that people don’t always need a sermon. Sometimes, they just need a friend. They need someone to show a little compassion. Romans 12:15 says, **“rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”**

Remember the calamities that befell godly Job? He didn’t know the Lord had been bragging on in him in front of the angels and Lucifer, but he woke up one morning and one disaster after another struck his life. He lost his children. He lost his livelihood and his possessions. He even lost his health. When his body was covered head-to-toe with boils, his wife came along and said, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

When someone is in pain sometimes saying less is more because sometimes when we’re trying to encourage someone, we actually say the wrong thing. We always feel like we have to have the answer or a Bible verse for each situation. But, there’s a time and a place for everything. When Kazuko passed away a lot of people tried to say things that would help Sherry and I. Some things helped, and some things didn’t help as much. But, I learned a lot about what it was like to be on the receiving end of those words. As a pastor I was always tried to bring some comfort. Then suddenly I was the one listening to those things, and I understand that people don’t always need to hear a sermon. They just need a little compassion.

**Thought For Today:** We live in a world of hurting people. People across our country are sick, grieving, and struggling. Even in our own church there are people who are grieving. To whom can you show compassion to?

**Today’s Prayer Focus:** Continue to pray for the Kuwatani, Mitchell, and Yamanishi families as they mourn the loss of loved ones. Continue to add the weekly prayer fuel to your daily devotion time.