

Daily Devotion For December 5, 2021

"And they all wept and embraced Paul and kissed him, sorrowing most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they should see his face no more." Acts 20:38)

I received word yesterday from Helen Nakano's daughter Shari that they will soon take Susan off life-support systems because there is no brain activity. As I listened to Shari, I could hear the sorrow and sadness in her voice as the family says their final good-bye's.

Next Sunday will mark 8 years since Kazuko passed and went to the Lord and Sherry and I can understand the sorrow and grief that the Nakano family is facing. At some point, maybe you too have faced your final farewell and know that it is not easy.

Like those people who saw Paul off, we weep and embrace and sorrow. Saying goodbye involves both the one who is leaving and those who are remaining in this life, and it is important that we note how Paul says his farewell.

In Acts 20, Paul recounts his past experiences with and among his friends. (vv.18-24). He affirms his present relationship with them. (vv. 25-28) He looks to the future as they continue on without him. (vv. 29-30) He asks that they remember him, commends them to God, and hopes that they have learned from him. (vv. 31-35) In effect, Paul reviews his life and relations with his friends, settles his 'unfinished business' with them, and hopes for their good future in which he is still somehow a part.

Thought For Today: The passing of a loved one can often times catch us unaware and unprepared. The lesson we can learn from Paul is to make our moments count with family and friends. Is there anything you need to do?

Today's Prayer Focus: Continue to pray for the Nakano family as they say their good-bye's to a beloved daughter, sister, wife, and mother. Pray for God's comfort and peace to be with them. Deo Volente.