

Daily Devotion For March 25, 2021

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3

Today would have been my wife Kazuko's 69th birthday. It has been 8 ½ years since Kazuko passed away from liver and lung disease. During this season of Lent, I was struck by Isaiah 53:3, which talks about Jesus being "acquainted with grief" As a pastor for 32 years now, I have officiated at countless funeral and memorial services. I've been with families at the moment their loved one passed away. I have been with many who were hurting and grieving. At my previous church, Wintersburg, we had a monthly grief support group.

As I pondered the meaning of Jesus being "acquainted with grief", I feel great comfort in the awareness that God understands those who mourn and hurt and grieve the passing of their loved ones.

I think, too often, we can overemphasize Jesus' focus on our happiness or life satisfaction. But there is something deeply reassuring about the knowledge that Jesus is "acquainted with grief." It takes Him out of the realm of "problem-solver" and into the realm of a heavenly father who knows our sorrows and grief.

Thought For Today: How does the knowledge that God knows your hurts and pains make you feel?

Today's Prayer Focus: Can you think of anyone who is mourning and grieving the loss of a loved one? Lift them up in prayer and pray that God would be their source of comfort and strength. Continue reading the prayer fuel. Deo Volente.