

## Daily Devotion For August 12, 2021

O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 2 Samuel 18:33

Today, August 12, 2021 would have been my 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary to Cheryl Ann Young Esaki. Tragically, she was killed in a car accident just 12 days after we were married. Often times we hear of stories of people in their 20's, 30's or after retirement that something tragically happens.

What made Cheryl's passing so difficult for me was to see her parents grieving. Scripture records for us many moving stories that mirror our experiences like the death of David's son Absalom. David was a grieving parent even though Absalom had plotted to take David's place as king of Israel.

In 2 Samuel 18:33 David wrote, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

David's cry is the cry of every grieving parent. No matter how unexpected or predictable, death shakes us to the core. The pain is inescapable. In I Corinthians 15:25-26 the Apostle Paul calls death our 'enemy'. Death is the enemy of everything good and beautiful about life.

The great Protestant reformer Martin Luther lost a son. His wife Katharina shouted at him, "Where was God when our son died?" Martin replied, "The same place he was when his Son died. He was there watching and weeping."

**Thought For Today:** Often a grieving person feels intense guilt—If only I had done this or that, it might not have happened. Sometimes the awful thought that creeps into our heads is, Perhaps God is punishing me. But God does not do that. If we trust that God is good, then we can trust God that He Can Bring Something Good out of our Loss

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Are you grieving? Do you know others who are grieving? Ask God to comfort them with his presence and his peace. Continue to pray this week's prayer fuel. Deo Volente.