

## Daily Devotion For July 5, 2021

Yesterday, besides being the celebration of our nation's birth would have been my 34th 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.

As I write this devotional I'm reminded that many of our church family and friends have suffered grief.

What do we know about grief? Through the losses I have experienced and witnessed as a pastor I have learned a few lessons. First of all, Psalm 34:18 says that God is close the broken hearted. Even if you can't feel his presence, that doesn't mean he's absent. God is right there.

Second, God did not want your loved one to die. It is *not* God's will that your loved one is dead. Death is the result of a fallen world. Romans 6:23 says that the "Wages of sin is death." Some may tell you it was God's will. We know that God holds the keys to life and death. And because God is sovereign, he knows how many days each of us will live. But God doesn't say, "I think I'll take this one today."

Third, No one knows how you feel. No two people grieve alike. Even those in the same family grieve differently. People know you are sad. If a person has experienced loss, they know how that feels. But no one knows exactly how you feel. Only you know that.

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

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Continue to pray for the Marquez and Montoya families as they mourn the loss of Susie and Johnny. Review the updated prayer fuel and select a few prayer points to remember before God. Deo Volente.