

Daily Devotion For June 4, 2022

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.” Psalm 116:15

Yesterday, I officiated the burial service for Setsuko Yamanishi’s nephew Mark Yamanishi. As I got to the cemetery early, I walked around and viewed some of the inscriptions that were on the tombstones scattered throughout the cemetery. It reminded me of what I shared on Thursday evening for our Bible Study as we looked at the death of Moses. Some tombstone inscriptions read, “I told you I was sick!” One lady had the recipe of her favorite desert inscribed. Mel Blanc, the man of a thousand voices had “That’s all folk’s” written on his tomb.

But when we look at Moses, the valued leader of Israel, the bible tells us that there was no gravesite. God had already told Moses the specific circumstances of his death before he died (Deut. 32:48–52). Moses would not be allowed to enter the promised land because of his disobedience at Meribah, but he saw it from a distance. He would climb Mount Nebo, see the land, then “be gathered to your people,” an idiom for death. This is a comforting example of God’s grace, extended even to a leader who’d publicly dishonored Him.

The final three verses of Deuteronomy 34 are in essence Moses’ epitaph (vv. 10–12): “No prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt...No one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”

Thought For Today: Have you ever walked through a cemetery and noticed the inscriptions? What would you want your epitaph to be? What would it say about your achievements or character? What would it say about your relationship with the Lord?

Today’s Prayer Focus: Continued prayers for those who mourn and grieve. Deo Volente.