

Sermon entitled When Death Climbs Through A Window  
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# WHEN DEATH CLIMBS THROUGH A WINDOW

## TEXT: Jer. 9:21

- (NIV) 21 Death has climbed in through our windows and has entered our fortresses; it has removed the children from the streets and the young men from the public squares.
- (CEV) 21 'We were in our fortress, but death sneaked in through our windows. It even struck down children at play and our strongest young men.

## INTRODUCTION

Death is no respecter of persons and has no favorites. It doesn't respect age, position, importance, or prosperity. It marches into the mansions of the rich and squalor of the slums. It doesn't matter how well you feel or how in shape you are. No one escapes the certainty of death.

It strikes the old and the young, the sick and the healthy, the poor and the rich, the good and the bad. Death can be postponed, but never eliminated.

I know that talking about the subject of death, I am speaking on one of the three most unpopular topics discussed by believers. They are death, money, and hell.

Death dominates the news. It is estimated that about 75% of what we see on the news is somehow related to death. We are now living in what many sociologists are calling, "the culture of death."<sup>[1]</sup>

The mystery of death is a dominating theme in scripture. Death is called a tale that is told (Psa. 90:9). It is the valley of the shadow (Psa. 23:4), doors and gates of the shadow (Job 38:17). Death is described as being better than the day of one's birth (Eccl. 7:1

It is described as the night that comes (John 9:4), as waves that overtake (2 Samuel 22:5).

Death is described as a sleep from which we will wake (John 11: 11 ), as an appointment that must be kept (Heb. 9:27). But no one has described death quite as graphically and shockingly as Jeremiah. In the NIV, he describes death as follows: Death has climbed through our windows and has entered our fortresses (Jer. 9:21).

Dr. James Maxwell in his message using a similar title states “Every human being's life Is like a house that has windows. No matter how strong and secure the windows may be, you can not so lock the window to keep death from crawling through the window.

Let me remind you, death is not a respecter of persons. Death is not courteous or polite. It doesn't send you a telegram or email; it doesn't call you on the phone; it doesn't ring your doorbell; it doesn't rap or tap your window. It climbs through the window”.

If you are not careful death will kill you. If you mishandle death, somebody else's death will hasten your death.

When death climbs through a window, the first thing to do is...

## I. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

**A. In the text Jeremiah predicts the judgment of God upon Judah, the people of God, because of their stubbornness and sins (Jer. 9:1-5).** This prediction includes their being taken captivity by the Babylonians, including the death of thousands of people (Jer. 9:16).

Jeremiah says when judgment falls upon Israel "death would climb through a window and snuff out hundreds of lives.

It is a sad and dreadful day whenever death climbs through a window. BUT WHEN IT HAPPENS there are questions that need to be asked and answered.

## **B. What is death ANYHOW? -what do we mean by the use of the word death?**

There are three kinds of death:

- a. PHYSICAL DEATH, the separation of the spirit from the body;
- b. SPIRITUAL DEATH, the separation of the spirit from God;
- c. ETERNAL DEATH, the everlasting separation from the presence of God in hell.

EVERYTIME SOMEONE DIES, IT'S A REMINDER THAT THERE IS LIFE AFTER THIS LIFE. The old folk were right, dying wouldn't be so bad if dying was all. AFTER DEATH IS THE JUDGEMENT. Heb. 9:27

## **C. THE MAJOR QUESTION WE ASK IS Why? Why this, why me, why now?**

Why is not necessarily a rebellious attempt to question God's authority. Why is just wanting to understand and be at one with God's reasoning. .

The American Dictionary defines why this way: For what purpose, reason, or cause, with what intention, justification or motive..

Why? The word why is a request of a student, not merely for an answer, but for the understanding of the procedure that leads to an answer.

Why is the student saying, "Explain the answer." Why is saying, "God, I want to be a clone of Your wisdom. I want to draw from Your spiritual and intellectual resources until Your thoughts become my thoughts and Your

ways become my ways, and Your ideas become my ideas. I want a supernatural exchange." "

God, I'm not questioning Your right or ability to rule or govern, I' just asking you to show me the strategy. Show me Your plan and purpose for my life.

#### **D. A GOOD QUESTION TO ASK IS...Why do people die?**

People say the number one cause of death in America is heart disease. That really is not true. The number one cause of death not only in America, but in the world is sin. Romans 6:23 says,

Death was not God's idea for man. When God first created man He placed him in the midst of a beautiful garden. Death was not an event in His experience, a thought in His mind or a word in His vocabulary. But Satan entered that garden in the form of a serpent, tempted man to sin, and with sin came death.

Hebrews 2:14 Reminds us that death is ultimately the work of Satan. "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil".

That is said because death is the realm in which Satan exercises his authority over the human race because he tempts a man to sin and with sin comes death.

Death came about as a result of Adam's sin, it is part of the curse, it is our natural enemy, not our friend, and therefore our instincts are to live and not to die

The reason for death is sin. Romans 5:12 says, "When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone for everyone sinned." (Romans 5:12, NLT)

"You get what is coming to you when you sin. It is death!" (Romans 6:23, NLV)

When death crawls through a window ask your question, but secondly,,,

## II. ACTIVATE YOUR FAITH

Activating your faith is the way to deal with the death of a loved one when you are a believer

David, in II Samuel 12 gives us some tips on how to handle grief. baby died anyway.

### **1. Accept what cannot be changed. "**

*Then David got up from the ground... He said, 'While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept... But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back to life?'* 2 Sam 12:22-23.

You've been hurt. All of the grieving in the world is not going to change the past. ANGER, BITTERNESS, WORRY AND FRETTING WILL NOT BRING BACK WHAT HAS BEEN LOST.

The first step to emotional health, healing, restoring your soul is acceptance. Acceptance is the first step to healing the mind, will, emotions. This is the first key to peace of mind: Accept what cannot be changed. You will have to go through the stages of grief. There will be shock, anger depression and bargaining before you come to acceptance. BUT YOU MUST GET TO ACCEPTANCE. 2. Don't exaggerate it, dedicate it. Give it to God. Don't play it down, but pray it up. Too often we take our mourning and hold onto it and turn it into moaning. \*\*Prov. 3:5,6 Psalm 37, "Commit your way unto the Lord." Instead of saying, "This is devastating to me!" say, "God, help me make it through this situation!" "After David he had washed, put on lotions, and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped." He went to church. At church he worshipped God, which gave him a new perspective and the strength to carry on. COME A LITTLE CLOSER: At church you will be reminded: IF GOD BRINGS YOU TO IT, HE WILL BRING YOU THROUGH IT. Keep walking—that's how you get

through the valley! This is not your first crisis!! 3. Focus on what's left not what's lost.

6

"Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon (II Sam. 12:24)." WHAT'S LEFT IS LOVE, MEMORIES, AND A LEGACY!! Go through the grieving process and there will come a time when you will remember your loved with a smile and not a tear. . It's dark now, it may even look like the sun will never shine again. WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING. MORNING DOES COME! The rest of your life can be the best of your life. Isaiah 61:3 "To all who mourn... he will give: beauty for ashes; joy instead of mourning; praise instead of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3)." You don't have to remain a prisoner of your pain. It's a choice. CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD'S HEART EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T TRACE HIS HAND. III. ANTICIPATE YOUR COMFORT Matthew 5:4 New International Version (©1984) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted BLESSED ARE THE DEAD, WHO DIE IN THE LORD!!! That's our greatest comfort!! When life had you boxed in and you are on the ropes, remember there is always a "but God." God specializes in dealing with folk who are in your situation. GOD IS A GOD OF COMFORT... \*\*\*2 Corinthians 7:5-7

7

"Nevertheless" is a strange word. It is a strange syncretism of three words, but these three words comprise one word. It is three words in one, but it also has a joining aspect about it! It joins hope and despair! It joins failure and success. It joins heartache and comfort! It joins pain and pleasure! It joins grief and consolation! The word "nevertheless" is an adverb which nullifies, cancels, and abrogates whatever has been said before! "Nevertheless" is a word that causes the scene to shift and the conscious to change! It connotes a certain spirit of bravery and audacity and it conveys a sense of selfdefiance with the self! Whenever one says "nevertheless" it means that a previous



position has been abandoned and something radically different is on the agenda! “Nevertheless” looks back on the experience of failure, but it looks forward to a challenge of success! “Nevertheless” has two hands. With one, it clings to the wreck of the night before, and with the other it reaches forward to tomorrow with new goals in sight. “Nevertheless GOD IS A GOD OF COMFORT... When life is at its worst is WHEN God is at His better than best. He comforts the down cast, the depressed, those who are feeling blue. He heals the broken hearted Lifts the down trotted He gives hope to the hopeless Help to the helpless Strength to the weak BECAUSE GOD IS A GOD OF COMFORT Job 35:10 says that God “gives songs in the night.

8

He's give you a song in the night season! C O N C L U S I O N EVEN IN GRIEF DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG! You may lose some good friends along life's way. You may lose your parent or grandparents along the way You may lose a few choice relatives along the way...BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG! You may even lose some possessions that are near and dear. You may lose some battles on life's battlefield...BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG! Your hope may waver, Your joy may flicker Your faith may weaken, BUT EVEN IN GRIEF DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG! GO BACK AND GET SOME OF THOSE OLD ONE HUNDREDS FOR THE NIGHT SEASON Joseph Scriven. lost his fiancée in a accidental drowning at the age of 25 on the night prior to their wedding. Later on he wrote "What A Friend" as a poem and sent it to his ailing mother ! What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

9

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer. Are we weak and heavy

laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there. Words: Joseph Scriven (1857) Precious Lord, take my hand  
 Lead me on, let me stand I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone Through the storm, through the night Lead me on to the light Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near When my life is almost gone Hear my cry, hear my call Hold my hand lest I fall Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home EVEN IN GRIEF DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG!  
 Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. o I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

10

EVEN IN GRIEF DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG! END NOTES: 1. The Last Breath -- The Fear of Death (5 of 6) Series: Fear Factor James Merritt Hebrews 9:27-28 ##### [Author Affiliation] David L. Lane, Ph.D.—Retired Resident Minister Marsalis Ave. Church of Christ Dallas, Texas --CEO Ja Kem Consorts and Leadership Institute is the Author of “Low Motives In High Places” and the June 2013 Book “All Stressed Up and No Place To Go” Both can be purchased at Barnes and Noble Bookstores as well as Amazon.com. His website is <http://www.ja-kemconsorts.org/> He is an author, scholar, psychotherapist, minister, international lecturer, theologian and one of the pioneers of therapeutic preaching. He has been given two honorary doctorates for his work in Therapeutic Preaching.