

What If. . .

Please humor me and allow this writer to present a "What if" scenario. A little background might be helpful. The other day I was thinking about our mom as she passed away a little over six months ago. Like most folks who have lost a loved one, I wish I could hear her voice one more time. In fact, I had a dream where she came back for just a short time, and this got me to thinking. What if we could spend one more day with a loved one who has passed away? Not to get some deep secret information such as what it is like on the other side of the grave but simply to be able to see them again. To hear their voice, feel their touch, reminisce, or taste their chocolate gravy, or to just be with them one more time. I know that would be worth more than all the gold in the world.

Then I got to thinking about this "what if" we bring back somebody from the grave for just one day scenario and realized it could really present some problems. For instance, who would I rather see again? Our dad has been gone over ten years and I would like to hear him lead a song, hear his laugh, see his smile, and just be able to sit down and talk with him one more time. Would I choose one parent over the other? Those who have lost a spouse would probably like to see them again but what if you had also lost a child? Do you see my point? It would be really hard to choose just one person you would like to spend one more day with. All of us could write down a list of names of people we would like to talk to if we could do such a thing.

Then I got to thinking about the temporary nature of such a "What if" situation. It would be great to have mom or dad back for one more day but that day would then end and we would again miss them. Would we enjoy such a brief encounter? At the end of that magical day we would once again have to say good bye.

By now you might be thinking I have gone off the deep end with this "What if" scenario but let me get to my main point. King David sinned with Bathsheba and was told one of the consequences would be the death of the

child conceived as a result of their sin. He mourned until the child died and then he cleaned up and ate. "Then his servants said to him, 'What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.' He said, 'While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.'" (2 Samuel 12.21-23) He realized the child would never come back to him but he could eventually go and be with his child. While we may wish to see them again, it will not be in this life.

Also, how can we choose one person we would like to spend eternity as we all have numerous loved ones. We, I, want to spend eternity with my wife, children, parents, siblings, other relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, and a host of other people. That is only possible if I live according to God's word. I must get to heaven in order to spend it there with those who have been faithful.

We should want to spend more than just one day or one week or one year with our loved ones. Eternity is forever, time without end. I don't want to see my mom or dad again in order to have to say goodbye. One of the joys of heaven is being with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and all the faithful forever.

Of course, my "what if you could spend one day with a departed loved one, who would you choose?" Is just wishful thinking. It won't and can't happen in this world. But in another sense, we can think about those we would like to spend eternity with and what that would be like. We can think about helping our loved ones get to heaven so we can see them again. Let us live so as to make the "what if's" a reality. - - Dennis Tucker