



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Life Beneath the Surface – Grief

Guest Speaker: Aaron Stern - Lead pastor of Mill City Church, Colorado

Scriptures: Job 1:13-21, Matthew 5:4, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Job 1:13-21

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.^[a]
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised."

Matthew 5:4

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Believers Who Have Died

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Sermon Summary:

If we are to live into the fullness of our humanity, we have to embrace sadness. This isn't a culturally popular idea. What keeps us from embracing sadness and expressing grief? And how does this look as followers of Jesus?

This Sunday, we will continue our sermon series, Life Beneath the Surface, with a message from guest speaker and lead pastor of Mill City Church, Aaron Stern.

Sermon Questions:

1. How was grief handled in your family of origin & culture. What messages were communicated implicitly or explicitly like "grief is a form of weakness" or "you need to get over it."
2. Name one of your "How can this be happening, God?" moments in your life.
3. Pastor Stern shared several scriptures around grief: Job 1:13-16, 20-21, John 16:33, Is. 53:3, Matthew 5:4. Read these scriptures again and share which one speaks to you and why.
4. "Grief will not kill you, but not grieving will numb and deaden something inside of you." What loss have you minimized or avoided that God is inviting you to grieve? Who are the people/community that you can invite into your process and pain?