

Let Captain  
01 25

# FACING DEATH VICTORIOUSLY

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5 and vers 4, Jesus said, "Blessed are they they morun, for they shall be comforted."

The last thing we would apply to the heart that is broken by sorrow is blessedness. It is not easy to see the silver lining that surrounds a cloud of grief. Yet, the silver lining is there, and if we let Christ open our eyes when all seems dark, we shall see it.

All of us need to learn how to live as if we would die tonight, and to work as if we would live forever. For not until we look at death victoriously can we learn to live victoriously. And not until we live victoriously can we face death victoriously.

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Therefore, let us look to Jesus, the master of life, who teaches us some lessons in facingg death.

1. The first thing that Jesus teaches us is that God is with us in our sorrow and that God himself suffers in it.

Jesus made this plain when he went with his ~~the~~ friends to the grave of their brother Lazarus. And Jesus wept over the death of his friend.

This is a world in which God is at work with a purpose. There are thingshe can teach us through the pain of sorrow. It may be that we never come alive to what life really means until bereavment comes knocking at our door and we see in it the hand of God.

POEM: WHEN SORROW COMES

2. A second lesson that Jesus teaches is that death comes as a friend.

I really mean that. We often wish in a childish way that life would never end, and we wonder why God created the universe ~~when~~ death comes at all. We feel that death is an enemy of life and not a friend.

But that is not right. It is the knowledge that our years are limited that makes them so precious.

Who would want to live a never-ending existence on earth through endless years of struggle and revolution, pain and worry, conflict and labor...with no possibility of escape? Life would be so monotonous and boring with no heights or depths, with not challenge nor achievement.

Have you ever toiled through the hot, sweaty, day, looking forward to the sunset? Time moved so slowly; it seemed the day would never end. Then, when evening finally came... how welcome, what cool peace, what satisfying release, what a wonderful friend...

                     lived many years, and death most have come as a friend indeed.

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3. But the most important lesson that Jesus teaches us is that life exist beyond the grave and death is but a doorway to eternal life.

Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many ~~are~~ dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also..

And speaking of heaven, John wrote: "They shall be at the throne of God. And there shall be no hunger, nor thirst for Jesus is in the center of the throne and he shall guide them to springs of living water; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.

Jesus said  
I am the resurrection and the life,  
he who believes in me shall live  
even if he dies; and whoever  
lives and believes in me shall  
never die.