

When Death Comes Knocking

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1 Kings 1:1-4 Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

- I. How troubling it is to see someone we have known when they grow old to the point David is now!
 - A. We have known him in his youth and in his strength and now we see him as his strength fails and as his life slowly fades away.
 - B. The way it affects our mind and heart never changes even though we watch it happen over and over for our entire life.
 - C. Even though we know that we are headed to this very same place ourselves we make little or no preparation for it.
 - D. It seems as though many try to make preparation for eternity, but not for the weakness of old age and death, but a wise person will prepare for both.
 - E. It seems like we are never prepared for old age and weakness in our loved ones, either.
 - F. It is like we just wake up one day and we are old and weak, or our loved ones are old and weak.

- II. David is old and weak and he is showing all the symptoms of it.
 - A. He cannot stay warm.
 - B. The strongest physical desires have faded away and so has his pleasure in them.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

1. Those who were his caretakers thought that the fairest and kindest young virgin in the kingdom would surely bring him back to life, but they were simply carnal people who were not wise about life and old age.
- C. David had a taste of weakness when the giant was about to kill him and Abishai had to save him, but now he is feeling the total failure of his earthly tabernacle.
- D. He knows the end is near now and so his mind is consumed with setting things in order and trying to make sure that some evil person doesn't undo all he has spent his life doing as soon as he is dead.
- E. David is finished with some things, but he still has a lot to do before dies, and it is more important than what these people around him are thinking about.
- F. One of the hardest things about this point in life is that you feel very alone even if you are surrounded by people, because those around you do not understand what you need and what is important to you.
 1. They are still thinking after the flesh and living life here and you are finished with it and only thinking about what they are going to do when you are not here anymore.

III. Since we are all headed to this point we should do our diligence to prepare for it while we have our strength and our health.

A. Nothing in the Bible is made more clear than the fact that people grow old and weak.

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

Genesis 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Joshua 23:2 And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age:

2 Chronicles 24:15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.

Job 42:17 So Job died, being old and full of days.

B. We could go on and read the names of everyone from Adam to Noah, and from Noah to Moses, and from Moses to Jesus – who died and were buried with their fathers.

C. The only way we will be spared from growing old and stricken in age is to die before that happens or for Jesus to come.

D. Old age is really a blessing that a lot of people miss.

1. It is a blessing to those who grow old themselves, because they have opportunity to set things in order that they not understood, or neglected until then.

2. It is a blessing to those around them to watch an old person grow old in wisdom and righteousness.

3. It is a blessing to hear the last words and conversations they have at the very end of their life.

Proverbs 16:31 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

IV. What can we do to prepare for this time our life?

Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

A. While we have the strength of our youth we need to live a holy life in the sight of God.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

B. While we are young it is so hard to imagine ourselves old and weak.

1. For some people, even when they are almost there, they still cannot imagine themselves in that state.
 2. They give it very little or no thought at all, so they are unprepared when they suddenly find themselves there.
- C. What will the things we do to our body look like when we are old and weak?
1. Think about tattoos, and piercings, and any modification we do to our bodies.
 2. Think about all that we follow after the world to do to be attractive and beautiful.
 3. Think about all that we let the world tell us to do to be healthy.
 4. Think about drinking booze, smoking, drugs and immorality.
 5. Think about it while you are young and these things appeal to you and you can take pleasure in them – but what will they look like to you when you are down to your last few days or hours?
- D. What will the things that we do to our mind look like when we are in those last hours of our life?
1. The foolish, ungodly, wicked philosophies of this insane world full of sinners who hate God that we have swallowed and embraced.
 2. The pollution of the world and its moral filthiness that we have feasted our eyes and ears upon that is still in your mind at that point in your life.
 3. The very large amount of knowledge we have filled our mind with of this world and its entertainment and celebrities and vain persons.
 4. The very small amount of truth from God's Word we have gathered into our mind.
 5. OR, you can fill your mind with the Word of God while you are young and your mind is clear.
 6. You can live a pure life and find a closeness and reality of God in your final hours like you've never known in your life.
- E. What will the things we have said and done to other people look like in those last hours?
1. All the controversies, all the strife, all the conflicts – will we be pleased then how we handled them?
 2. Will we feel that we have done all we could have done with people we love, for their good?
 3. Will we have a conscience void of offense before God and men?
- F. Being old and stricken in age can be the harvest time of life, or it can be a disastrous crash.
1. It all depends upon how much we do to prepare for that time while we have our strength and our youth.

Psalm 71:9 Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.

Psalm 92:14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Isaiah 46:4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.