

ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF

Isaiah 53:3

SOURCES OF GRIEF

- There are many different reasons we experience grief.
- Some of these have fairly straightforward solutions (Gen. 4:7; 1 Thess. 4:13).
- Some are much more difficult to face (1 Kgs. 17:17-24; Lk. 16:19-31).
- Sometimes we need to grieve more than we do (Joel 2:12-13).
- Sometimes we need to be less grieved than we are (Jonah 4:9; cf. Lev. 10:6-7).

ROOM FOR GRIEF

- We do not generally allow for prolonged or extreme displays of grief (Gen. 45:2; Gen. 21:16-17).
- We are prone to expect tears to end too quickly (Job 2:13).
- Displays of grief do not signal a lack of faith (Job 1:21).
- We need to leave room for the personal nature of grief (Prov. 14:10).
- I believe there is implicit permission in the tears of Jesus (Jn. 11:35).

TETHERS

- Some speak as though there are no wrong things to say in the midst of grief (Job 2:9-10).
- We need to tie ourselves to something strong when the waves are crashing (Job 1:21; 2:10).
- When we are tethered, then we can be honest (Psa. 22; 88).
- But even then, we ought to maintain reverence (Job 9:22-23).
- The tether will keep us from straying too far (Job 19:25).