

## **Blessed to Be a Blessing – February 27, 2011**

### **What's Your Story?**

**I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the LORD: "LORD, save me!" The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The LORD protects the unwary; when I was brought low, He saved me. Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.....Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants. Psalm 116:1-7, 15 NKJV**

A walk through the cemetery can prompt an interesting and thoughtful reflection about the ways of man. Each grave marker tells a story. Most every marker relays simple details like name, birth date, and date of death. Many markers add to the biography of the departed with other notations: "Beloved wife and mother"---"Dearly Loved..."---"Precious child too soon departed"---"WWII Vet.", and other such tidbits of sentiment and remembrance. Some markers have names engraved for those who are still living announcing to every passer by the inescapable reality of death for us all. It speaks to us of our own mortality...."here is a space waiting to be filled at the appointed time." Some markers are bold witnesses to faith: a simple cross adorns the headstone or words of hope boldly engraved cry out to all who would stop and read them...."Asleep in Jesus" or "I am the Resurrection and the Life"...hopeful and comforting words enshrined in stone which herald the expected and glorious coming of the Lord Jesus. Such are words of comfort and joy that dry our tears and give us peace.

Each grave marker tells a story. Often it leaves us wanting to know more. The infant graves that make us wonder about God's plan...our hearts ache for the parents and we burst with empathy for those so sorely afflicted. The graves of young people that make us wonder about those taken in the prime of their lives. The markers of those who lived to a ripe old age...what were their joys and heartaches? What is that they leave

behind for us; that inestimable inheritance passed on to their posterity. What wisdom and knowledge departed with their leaving this earth, never to be gained again? Each marker tells a story because each individual has a story! Each person that passes through this world is a beloved creation of God who has worth and value simply because He made them. Each one has been created by God with unique abilities and talents to make contributions to family, friends, and society. Each one has a story... a story that can't possibly be told in full by the grandest of markers.

What's your story? No matter how unique it may be, it is also a story common to every person. All are sinners. All die. All are in need of the Savior! The Psalmist tells us his story...the anguish over the grave...the cry to the Lord for mercy. The Psalmist tells God's story! God saves. Death becomes the gateway to eternal life. The Psalmist's story is our story. God has had mercy on us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Through His death and resurrection our sin is forgiven and the power of death is defeated. God longs for us...young or old...to live with Him. Joyous to Him and all His angels is the day He brings us home. In Christ our Savior death is but a sleep from which our bodies will awaken in glory. That is our story. We are forgiven sinners who will inherit life everlasting. It can be the story of everyone for God's mercy is meant for all. Most of us like to talk about ourselves---will you tell your story to someone else? Be a blessing to someone else. Tell them about your life in Christ---the life you have now and the life that is to come. Tell it while you have the opportunity...we'd love to hear your story!

Pastor Jacobs

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