COPING WITH SUICIDE
AND
SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Text: Job 1:20-22

Intro. While our text doesn't deal with suicide, it does deal with how Job faced and dealt with the death of his children. There are some principles found in these verses that we can apply to our coping with death even the suicide death. Those who try or commit suicide seldom think of how their death will affect their loved ones. A suicide or attempted suicide will have a traumatic affect upon survivors. Notice five things about the subject with me.

I. THE HAPPENING.
A. The facts.
   1. Suicide is a fact. The papers and news media are constant reminders of the suicide rate.
   2. Your experience with family, friends, establishes the fact.
   3. Many believe what appears to be accidental may in fact be suicides.
B. The feelings.
   1. Some do it to escape an intolerable situation.
   2. Some want to punish loved ones.
   3. Some want to gain attention.
   4. Some want to join a loved one.
   5. Some want to manipulate others.
   6. Some want to avoid punishment or to be punished.
   7. Some want to avoid becoming a burden to others.
   8. Some want to avoid the effects of a dreaded disease.
   9. Some pursue an irrational impulse.
   10. Some do it to express love.
C. The factors contributing to it.
   1. Loss of a relationship.
   2. A major blow to the ego.
   4. A developmental barrier.

Charles Swilling

5. Self imposed high expectations.
6. Mental illness in the form of depression.

II. THE HELP.
A. Signs to look for.
   1. A history of problems, a recent traumatic event, communication problems.
   2. Significant changes in behavior, moodiness, withdrawal, violent behavior.
   3. Drugs and alcohol, feelings of being unwanted, and general physical complaints.
B. Specific ways to help.
   1. Show interest and concern.  
   2. Pray. I Thess. 5:17
   3. Build a relationship with them. Listen to them. Express their feelings.
   4. Help focus the problems and resources.
   5. Confront romantic notions of death.

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6. Deal with the method.
7. Spread the responsibility.
8. Make a contract with the person. Make them promise to call you if they feel suicidal.
9. Develop a plan of action in dealing with problems.

III. THE HELPER.
A. The loved one.
1. The need of the Holy Spirit. He is our comforter, guide, and revealer of the truth. John 16:12-16
2. The need of God's word. We grow as we study God's word. I Pet. 2:2
3. The need of exercise. Exercise has a way of clearing our mental perception.
4. The need of knowledge, self knowledge, general knowledge, and specific knowledge about suicide.
5. The need of support. Faith, family, friends, and professionals.
B. The Lord.
1. The Lord is with us to help us to help others. Hebs. 13:5,6
2. The Spirit of God is with us to comfort us as we seek to comfort others.
3. The Lord will show us what to do, what to say, or what to recommend.
4. The Lord is able to sustain us. Psa. 3:5

IV. THE HURT.
A. The guilt. You may feel guilty when someone attempts or commits suicide. You may blame yourself.
B. The fear. When someone threatens or attempts suicide you may fear they will try again. You will fear you will find them after it happens, etc.
C. The hurt. A suicide attempt or completed is in a way a rejection of those close to the one who attempts it.
D. The anger. Anger is felt because of embarrassment, trouble caused, or how stupid a person has acted.
E. The helplessness. You may feel extremely helpless to help or do anything for the one who attempts it.
F. The frustration. You may feel so helpless and unable to do anything and feel frustrated.
G. The discouragement. The feeling of helplessness and discouragement can lead to depression.
H. The shame. You may feel shame because you think you have failed them or you are afraid of what others will think.
I. The anxiety. A suicide or attempted suicide may cause you to feel that life isn't worth living or causes us to be anxious about our own death.
J. The depression. This is simply being down emotionally and raises questions about the meaningless-ness of life and makes us vulnerable to becoming depressed.

V. THE HEALTH.
A. The power of circumstances.
1. A bad home life or situation does have an influence upon us.
2. The way parents live can influence us. The parents can even pass traits and characteristics on to their children.
3. Drugs and alcohol can greatly distort our perception.
4. Even the way we handle problems in daily life influences us.
B. The problem involved with suicide and it's attempt.
1. The person who decides to take his or her life is responsible.
2. If a decision is made to end it all, no one can stop them. It will just be a matter of time.
3. We all have a tendency to feel like we are at fault or to blame when someone chooses suicide.
4. Circumstances may influence a decision made in connection with suicide, but the person must bear the responsibility for the decision.

Through Faith
Through faith we understand
The things we cannot know---
The hidden pattern God has planned,
And why each threat is so;
We trace life's vast design
And lose His golden strand,
But when our wills with His entwine
Through faith we understand.

Through faith we understand
What to our sight is dim,
And still love's sweet, all-knowing hand
Leads those who trust in Him.
Ours not to know the way,
But bow to His command;
And when our childlike hearts obey,
Through faith we understand.

E. Margaret Clarkson
FEAR

Text: Psalms 31:11-20
Intro: Review the flight of David before Saul the King.
A. The Spear
B. The Fear
C. And the Faith, not to strike back

I. Let's Reason About Fear:
A. God's Word says, "Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear." I John 4:18
   1. This means, we should have perfect confidence in God and His word and promises.
   2. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"
B. Just because you believe doesn't mean you won't face the trials.
   1. David trusted God, but dodged the spear of Saul.
   2. Some may think God will stop the spear!
   3. Faith healers believe this.
C. There is war in the world but God protects through:
   1. Faith
   2. Fear, (Godly Fear)
   3. Faithfulness, by effort
D. I fear the wicked hearts of men:
   1. Don't leave your doors unlocked
   2. But don't stay inside all the time for fear

II. THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM:
A. Jesus said, "Fear not him that can destroy the body, but not the soul, but fear Him that can destroy both body and soul in hell!"
   1. This could be speaking of Satan.
   2. Or it could be speaking of our fellow man.
   3. But remember God is in control and is the only one who can destroy both body and soul.
B. Wisdom is knowing and believing:
   1. Our true Position:
      a. We are God's Creation.
      b. We are going to finally stand before Him.
   2. Our True Purpose:
      a. To be conformed to the image of His Son.
      b. It is our Choice, but He helps us with fears and emotions.
   3. Our Protection and its Workings
      a. It's like telling our children to not play in the street.
      b. It's like telling them not to touch a hot iron.
      c. They can believe us or not, but to get off the path of obedience is to be burned.
C. Learn to Do God's will and be rewarded.
   1. With Hope. (All promises true.)
   2. With Assurance. (Experiences are our greatest asset, to follow God.)

III. THE EFFECT OF FEAR:
A. Emotional problems
   1. We will develop phobias.
   2. We can be possessed by fear.
B. Then there is the Physical Problems
   1. Think of tragedies and accidents caused by fear and reactions from fear.
C. Unbelief and Distrust come from Fear

By Sammy Eldredge

IN OUR SPIRITUALLY

Text: Acts 19:1-7

R.H. Ledford

INTRODUCTION:
A. Paul's question, "Have ye received the Holy Spirit?"
B. Our focus will not be doctrinal, but practical.
C. How may you know personally that you have the eternal, Divine, saving, justifying Holy Spirit in your heart?

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES OF CHRIST.
A. The Holy Spirit manifests Christ to us and in us.
B. The Holy Spirit works spiritually in us; "Be ye holy as God is holy."
C. Holiness is the decisive test of our having received the Holy Spirit.

II. THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM.
A. The Spirit of wisdom is the work of the Spirit in the church today.
B. The Holy Spirit in us is a transforming Spirit.
C. The transforming Holy Spirit teaches us to hate sin, to cast off corruption, to put on perfect holiness.

III. THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
A. These disciples were cold, with no life and no spirit in their faith.
B. The receiving of the Holy Spirit changed all that.
C. The Holy Spirit gives us clearness to truth, enthusiasm in our works for the Lord.

IV. THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
A. The tokens of the Holy Spirit in you cannot be mistaken.
B. There is, the token of love, growing love for each other and our neighbor.
C. There is the token of your hatred for worldliness and sin.
D. There is the token of your love for Christ in God.

V. THE COMMUNICATION OF THE SPIRIT.
A. The Apostles were communicated the miracle of gifts.
B. We are communicated the miracle of grace.
C. What God did then by supernatural bestowment, He now does by ordinary communication.

CONCLUSION:
A. Christ makes a difference in your spirituality.
B. Paul said, "Work out your own salvation."
C. Examine yourselves and see if you truly have the Holy Spirit of God in your heart.
D. The Spirit of God in us is a transforming Spirit. Rom. 12:1, 2

THE QUESTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN
Text: Ephesians 5:18
Intro. Each day in the life of a Christian can be an exciting experience. God desires that His child have a fruitful, victorious life.

A. The baptism in the Spirit was a one time experience on the church. Each person uniting with the church participates in this continuing, empowering presence.
B. The filling of the Spirit is an individual experience as one yields to the Spirit. This experience may be repeated many times because of not always being completely submitted to God's will.

II. TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THIS ONE MUST REALIZE THAT THERE ARE THREE MEN TO RECKON IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN.
A. The Natural Man - As one is born into this world
   1. He does not receive nor understand the Spiritual things. I Cor. 2:14
   2. He is corrupt. Eph. 4:22
   3. His deeds are evil. Col. 3:6-9
   4. Christ is no part of this life. Rom. 8:9
B. The Spiritual Man - II Cor. 2:15, 16
   1. This is the spirit of man that is born of God's Spirit. John 3:6, 7; II Cor. 5:17
   2. He is empowered by the Spirit. Eph. 3:16; Col. 3:10; II Tim. 1:7
   3. He is sealed by the Spirit. Eph. 4:30
C. The Carnal Man - I Cor. 3:1-3
   1. One who has been saved but has not grown or matured in the Lord. Heb. 5:11
   2. One who lives for self instead of for the Lord. Gal. 2:20

III. GOD MAKES POSSIBLE A FRUITFUL, VICTORIOUS LIFE FOR EACH ONE
   John 15:5; I John 5:4
A. This calls for one to yield to the Lord for His filling.
B. His life is Christ centered.
C. He studies and meditates on the Word. Psalms 1:2
D. He has an active prayer life.
E. He manifests the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22, 23.

THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD
II Corinthians 4:7-9

I. STRENGTH AGAINST PRESSURE, vs. 8a
   A. Job Pressure
   B. Social Pressure
   C. Life Pressure
   D. Pressure Relief
       1. Job relief, Matt. 16:26
       2. Social relief, Mk. 9:35
       3. Life relief, Jn. 14:27, 13, 14

II. STRENGTH AGAINST PERPLEXITIES, vs. 8b
   A. Future Questions
   B. Present Questions
   C. Answered Questions
       1. Future answered, Jn. 14:1-3
       2. Present answered, Rom. 8:28
       3. We do have hope, Heb. 6:18b-19a

III. STRENGTH AGAINST PERSECUTION, vs. 9a
   A. On the Job
   B. In the School
THE DANGERS OF A NEGATIVE LIFE

Text: Exodus 4:1-18

INTRODUCTION: THE DENIAL OF GOD!

A. Definitions for a Negative Life.
   1. NEGATE-To deny; deprive of effect.
   2. NEGATION-Denial; state of being nullified.
   3. NEGATIVE-(Noun form) An adverse vote. (Adverse-Acting against; in I. opposition against)

B. Moses had a Negative Attitude.
   1. "I am not qualified," Ex. 3:11
   2. "I don't know what to say." Ex. 3:13
   3. "I am afraid of failure." Ex. 4:1
   4. "I am not a man of words." Ex 4:10
   5. "I don't want to." Ex 4:13
   6. God had a POSITIVE SOLUTION for each NEGATIVE STAND that Moses took.

C. A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE is DANGEROUS for THREE REASONS:

I. BECAUSE IT DEPRIVES OR ROBS
   A. It deprives God.
      1. He desires to be our God because He loves us, Jn. 3:16
      2. He deserves to be our God because He created us. (Created in His Image. Gen. 1:26) Sub. THE TRINITY
         b. The Spirit - This is the part of man which knows. II Cor. 2:11 & Rom. 8:16
         c. The Soul - Implies self-conscious life. This is the seat of emotions: desires, and affections. The heart is the same as the Soul. Ps. 42:1-6

(Continued on page 8)
II. FACING THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION:
   A. For the SAVED:
      1. John 11:25
      2. Rom. 0:11
      3. I Thes. 4:16-17
      4. II Cor. 15:51-57
   B. For the UNSAVED:
      1. John 5:28-29
      2. Rev. 20:5
      3. Rev. 20:13

III. FACING THE REALITY OF JUDGMENT:
   A. Heb. 9:27
   B. Rom. 14:11-12 "IT IS WRITTEN"
   C. Ecc. 11:9
   D. For the SAVED: II Cor. 5:10, II Cor. 3:13-15, Rev. 22:12, Mark 9:41
   E. For the UNSAVED: Rev. 20:11, Rev. 20:13

IV. FACING THE REALITY OF ONE'S ETERNAL DESTINY:
   A. For the SAVED: HEAVEN:
      1. My Father's House: John 14:1-3
      4. A PLACE WHERE THERE WILL BE NO SIN! Rev. 21:27
      5. SOME THINGS THAT WILL BE MISSING! Rev. 21:4
      6. A TIME AND PLACE WHERE THE SAVED WILL BE FOREVER UNDER THE CARE OF THE LAMB OF GOD, JESUS! Rev. 7:16-17
      7. A TIME AND PLACE OF "PRAISE TO PERFECTION" GIVEN TO THE LORD! Rev. 5:8-10
   B. For the UNSAVED - CHRIST REJECTERS
      1. Eternal separation from God: II Thes. 1:7-10
      2. A PLACE WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE, MERCY, GRACE, COMFORT, PROVISIONS...
      3. A place without WATER!
      4. A PLACE OF TORMENT IN FLAME! Rev. 20:14-15, Rev. 20:10

THE SAVIOUR HAS ARRIVED

TEXT: Luke 2:8-14
INTRODUCTION:
A. The REVIEW
   1. The splendor of man.
   2. The schemer against man.
   3. The sin of man.
   4. The shamefulness of sin.
   5. The seed of the woman.
B. The REVELATION - the Saviour has arrived!!!
   1. Arrived to REPRESENT us.
   2. Arrived to REDEEM us.
   3. Arrived to RELEASE us.
      a. Release us from sin's condemnation.
      b. Release us from Satan's grip.
      c. Release us from the slave market of sin. (sin's power)
      d. Release us from shameful lives.
   4. Arrived to RESTORE us.
      a. Restore us to fellowship.
      b. Restore us to dominion.
      c. Restore us so that we can give glory to God.
C. The REALIZATION - there are some truths that we must know and experience before the Savior can represent us, redeem us, release us and restore us.

I. HE MUST BE RESIDENT WITHIN US!
   A. He stands at our heart's door:
      2. To convict us of our sins. John 16:7-11.
      3. To knock, desiring entrance. Rev. 3:20
   B. The scriptures which verify this reality - the importance of His residence within us.
      1. Romans 8:9
      2. Colossians 1:27
      3. II Corinthians 13:5
   C. The supreme importance.
      1. He only becomes resident within you when you open up your heart and receive Him.
      2. You must recognize your need of Him and open up to Him.
      3. He's God's gift to you.
      4. When this is done - He becomes
THE WONDER OF THE WORD

Text: Heb. 4:12

Steve Woods

Introduction
A. The Word reveals the past. Heb. 11:3
B. The Word reveals the present. (II Cor. 6:2
C. The Word reveals the future. Rev. 20:11-15

I. The Word was given by inspiration of God. Heb. 4:12
A. What inspiration means. II Pet. 1:15-21
B. God's inspired Word is profitable. II Tim. 3:16-17
1. To grow in its teachings. Heb. 5:13-14
2. It is a reprover of sin. Gal. 3:22
3. For correction of wrong. John 8:31-36
4. For instruction in righteousness. II Tim. 2:15; Phil. 2:15
C. That the man of God may be perfect (complete),
2. Complete in everyday living. I Tim. 3:15
3. Completely furnished for the work He calls us to do.

II. The Word of God is alive. Heb. 4:12

A. How is this Bible a living book?
1. Quick: "living" or "full of life".
2. Comparison of Gen. 2:7 & II Tim. 3:16
B. The Word is alive in itself. John 6:63
1. The Word of God goes with us. Prov. 6:22
2. We are kept from sin by the Word of God.
3. God speaks to us through the Word (talks).
C. The Word of God makes alive (gives life).
2. This life cannot be seen until planted.
3. When sown, it brings forth harvest. Ps. 126:66; Luke 8:11
D. The Word will live forever.
1. Satan has tried to destroy the Word.
2. We have the Word today and always. I Pet. 1:23-25
3. It shall never pass away. Matt. 24:35

III. There is great power in the Word. Heb. 4:12
A. How does the Word accomplish God's purpose?
1. There is power in the sense of ability to work.
2. The Word of God does work.
B. It cuts like a two-edged sword. Acts 2:37
1. It is sharper than any sword.
2. This is to convict of sin and righteousness.
3. We can know wrong and right from the Word.
C. It pierces to the inward parts.
1. Our conviction must be sincere. Ps. 51:6
2. It hurts to hear the truth sometimes. Acts 7:54
3. Men do not always receive the message.
D. It discerns between soul and spirit.
1. The trinity of man. I Thess. 5:3
2. The Adamic nature & the spiritual nature both want control. Rom. 7:18-25
3. We can know the right way only as we follow Christ and His law (the Word). Rom. 6:11-13

A. The Word is to criticize us.
1. "Discerner" means "critic".
2. We are not to criticize the Word.
B. The Word reveals the very heart. Jer. 17:9
1. We might as well admit we are wicked.
2. How wicked is man? Mark 7:20-23
3. We are sold under sin. Rom. 7:14
1. The sin of man is condemnation now.
2. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23
D. The Word will judge at the Great White Throne. Rev. 20:11-15
1. The books are the 66 of the Bible.
2. The dead will be judged from these.
3. They will be cast into the lake of fire.
   a. There's still hope today for the living.
   b. The Word condemns that we may be saved.
   c. All it takes is turning to Christ. II Cor. 6:2

V. The Word is demanding. Heb:12-16
A. The Word "for" in verse 12 refers to preceding.
B. The Word demands faith (mercy). Heb. 4:2
1. We cannot please God without faith. Heb. 11:6
2. It comes by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17
3. We are saved through faith. Eph. 2:8
C. The Word demands obedience. Heb. 4:11
1. As an answer to a good conscious. I Pet. 3:21
2. We will be judged for our works. I Cor. 3:13
3. It brings happiness to obey. John 13:17

(Continued from page 5)

d. The Body - It is separable from the Spirit and Soul. Rev. 20:14 The Body is the seat of senses. It is the housing for the Spirit and Soul. Rom. 7:23-24
3. He should be our God because He bought us. I Cor. 6:20
B. It deprives others of God.
1. Parents are commanded to teach children about God. Prov. 22:6
2. We are commanded to raise them under God's influence. Eph. 6:4
3. Christian are to live so others may see God. Matt. 5:16
C. It deprives us as individuals.
1. God's blessings are not bestowed upon doubtful minds. John 20:29
2. God's Power is seen through POSITIVE TRUST. I John 4:14

II. BECAUSE IT'S AN ADVERSE VOTE IN SATAN'S FAVOR
A. It's a deliberate act against God.
1. Anything against God is His enemy. Matt. 12:30
2. To oppose God is to Rebel against God. (Rebellion in any form is an evil sin! I Sam. 15:23; Prov. 17:11)
B. It's opposition against our only HOPE.
1. It opposes the hand which feeds us.
2. It opposes the only REAL friend we have. (When you chase off this friend - Watch Out!!)
3. To oppose God is to oppose the only way to Glory!! Acts 4:12; John 14:6

III. BECAUSE IT'S THE OPPOSITE TO POSITIVE
A. The positive is God's Way.
1. Negative is the symbol for death.
2. Positive is the symbol for life. (+)
3. God created us with a Positive Attitude.
B. The Negative Life is a Deficient Life.
1. Deficient in LOVE.
2. Deficient in UNDERSTANDING.
3. Deficient in SPIRITUAL POWER.
4. Deficient against ETERNAL DEATH

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