

Outline

- 1 There's seasons to life
- 2 There's difficulty to life
- 3 There's joy to life

1 There's seasons to life

- ~ David has shown how in this Psalm how there was anger as discipline for pride of numbering the people for a moment, greater than the Lord's discipline over David was God's favor over David's life, he was lifted up (he wasn't before), healed (he wasn't before), went from weeping to joy (v5), from mourning to dancing (v11)
- ~ Our lives consist of many different seasons. Some are good some are bad. Some easier and some not easy, Some where there's victories and some where it feels like a lot of defeat
- ~ I wonder if Solomon (David's son) thought of this verse when he wrote about the different seasons of life in Eccles 3:1-9
- ~ You think about the different seasons you go through in marriage. The tests and challenges
- ~ There's a season of excitement when you're young, a feeling you can conquer the world and ready for a challenge, and as we age and grow older life becomes hard as lose friends, life get's hard, you lose a job, finances, and even lose a loved one like Dick, Then you get older and you start to feel homesick for heaven

2 There's difficulty to life

- ~ Life is shifty. When a football running back has good balance, footwork and can move well and hit openings he's supposed to hit and move when there's no opening he's called a shifty running back – that's how life is – shifty
- ~ Life can sidestep us when we have everything planned, all is going well, you get good news and then life shifts
- ~ Life is filled with many difficulties we must endure
- ~ You ever wonder about how the bible speaks so much of trials and difficulty? It's because life is filled with trials
- ~ God addresses the elephant in the room. He doesn't act like it doesn't exist. God knows it does and addresses
- ~ Peter told us not to think it strange

Passages on trials

James 1:2,3 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

1 Peter 1:6-7 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ*

1 Peter 2:19-24 (Christ's sufferings)

1 Peter 3:17,18 *For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit*

1 Peter 4:12,13 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy*

- ~ We mustn't lose heart because these difficulties are God's tools to refine his people just as the sculptor uses tools to sculpt a masterpiece
- ~ These times of trials and weeping teach us to depend on, trust in, draw strength from and follow the Lord
- ~ Examples of those who had the night of weeping

- I'm sure there was the weeping of the night for Noah as no one believed him as he built a boat
- Joseph wrongfully sold by his brothers to traders going to Egypt
- Moses who forsook the pleasures of sin in Egypt for a season to suffer with the people of God and esteemed the reproach of Christ greater than treasures in Egypt (Heb 11:25)
- Elijah worked hard to serve the Lord and had his hopes shattered with Jezebel and wanted to die
- David who by faith killed the giant Goliath and was brought to King Saul and eventually hunted by King Saul because Saul was neurotic and insecure, David had his own son Absalom steal his kingdom from him

- Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet because he proclaimed God's word and was treated spitefully, thrown into a pit, fed the bread of affliction for doing God's will and he watched the invasions of Babylon
- Ezekiel the prophet was told not to weep when his wife died while they lived in captivity in Babylon
- Peter denied Christ and went out and wept because of his betrayal
- Paul the apostle said he warned the Ephesian elders night and day with tears because some of the very Ephesian elders Paul spoke to would forsake the gospel (Acts 20:31), those Ephesian elders wept over Paul as he left them (Acts 20:38)
- John Mark left the missionary team with Paul and Barnabas

~ Sometimes at night we lay awake and worry, overthink life, and sometimes even weep because of the difficulty of life but the morning is coming

~ While we struggle God isn't distant but is familiar with our struggles and puts our tears in a bottle (Ps 56:8)

Bridge Thought = There might be a weeping in the night but there will be joy in the morning

3 There's joy to life

~ Examples of those who had the night of weeping turned into joy in the morning

- God used Noah to repopulate the earth. His faithfulness was rewarded
- God used Moses mightily. While Moses wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land the Lord was the one who took him and buried. Moses came back in the gospel account to minister to Jesus with Elijah
- Elijah after his depression found Elisha and trained him. Elijah never died but was taken up in a chariot
- David became king after Saul was killed in battle, the kingdom was restored to him and David's name and example became the gold standard for the following kings
- Peter was restored mightily used in leading the early church
- At the end of Paul's life when he's in a cell he calls for John Mark because he was profitable to Paul

~ God turned their weeping in the night to Joy in the morning

~ Even in the suffering God gives us little victories and great moments in time. People love us and show us great kindness we didn't expect in suffering. Think about Betty having had that chance to speak with Dick a few days ago. She'll have that conversation in her heart for the rest of her life. Dick said, "come and get me out of here, you don't want to come to this place."

~ I think about the conversations I had with Dad the last few months. Talking on the phone daily

~ The great morning will come when Jesus comes back for his saints

~ Yesterday Dick's weeping, struggle and grief came to an end when he woke up in heaven with Christ

~ Life is going to always be difficult, shifty and sidestep our great plans but when the Lord returns for us or calls us home there will be ultimate joy

~ Christ is our morning joy

- Numb 24:17 Christ is the star out of Jacob
- Is 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee
- Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
- Lk 1:78 Jesus is the Dayspring from on high who has visited us
- Rev 22:16 Jesus is the bright and morning star

~ God will turn our winter's night to a summer's day, sighing to singing, grief to gladness, mourning to music, the bitter to sweet, a wilderness to paradise (Thomas Brooks)

Conclusion

~ What is your night season? Don't lose heart and get discouraged because the morning is coming and it's bringing joy with it