

Sunday's Coming

Intro:

You can tell a lot about a people by the way they respond to death

Written in 1953 about our future Ray Bradbury describes a time we are fast approaching a time when inconvenient truths are best burned from our memories

...Burn the book. Serenity, Montag. Peace, Montag. Take your fight outside. Better yet, into the incinerator. Funerals are unhappy and pagan? Eliminate them, too. Five minutes after a person is dead he's on his way to the Big Flue, the incinerators are serviced by helicopters all over the country. Ten minutes after death a man's a speck of black dust. Let's not quibble over individuals with memoriums. Forget them. Burn all, burn everything. Fire is bright and fire is clean. Fahrenheit 451

We don't want to remember uncomfortable details about our history so we ban burn or break it down.

We don't want to see our inadequacies so we make everyone is a winner, everyone's virtuous, every dream special. In a culture where everyone is a virtuous winner there is no place for a failure such as death. If we truly want to live in the now there can be no place for a funeral.

Problem:

Ps 90:12 - it is unwise to not think about death

We live in a death denying culture. We shield our children from it - hence the video.

Death is our narcissistic society's horrible little secret best left unspoken about in any serious way. We want to distance ourselves from it because it doesn't fit our world view of self gratification. Death is a downer and death is for other people...until it isn't.

The end of Genesis slows down to a snail's pace to linger on the death and funeral of Jacob. It is to illustrate something important for the people of God in a fallen world...

Main Idea:

Death is not defeat
Grief is not weakness
Hope is not optional

Implication:

1 Th 4:13
Do not be surprised by death
Grieve
But not without hope

Application:

1 Pet 3:15 tell them Sunday's coming...

Outro:

Sundays coming

Articles for further study:

<http://www.barabbas.com/messages/happily-ever-after/>

<http://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/rev-21.pdf>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-8-christian-perspective-death-philippians-119-26>

<https://www.challies.com/articles/how-christians-grieve/>

Sunday's Coming

Text:

Death is not defeat

Gen. 49:29 Then he **commanded** them and said to them, "**I am to be gathered to my people; bury** me with my fathers in the **cave** that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

Gen. 49:30 in the **cave** that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a **burying place**.

Gen. 49:31 There they **buried Abraham** and **Sarah** his wife. There they **buried Isaac** and **Rebekah** his wife, and there I **buried Leah** — (there is hope for any marriage this side of the next)

Gen. 49:32 the field and the **cave** that is in it were bought from the Hittites."

Gen. 49:33 When Jacob finished **commanding** his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was **gathered to his people**.

Jn 3:14-16 (Augustine rightly observes that "The Jews looked upon a serpent to be freed from serpents; and we look upon the death of Christ to be delivered from death" - no surprises

Rom 5:12 (know its origin death)

Gen 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31 (know its reach)

Heb 11:13-16 (a promise stronger than death)

Matt 22:29-32 (ex 3:6) (The resurrection was always the hope)

Job 19:23-27 (Job believed it)

2 sam 12:15-23 (David believed it)

Isaiah 25:6-9 (death would be defeated)

Rev 21:4 (look it in the face - it is a defeated foe - do not cower in fear Christian - plagues)

Grief is not weakness

Gen. 50:1 ¶ Then Joseph fell on his father's face and **wept** over him and kissed him.

Gen. 50:2 And Joseph **commanded** his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

Gen. 50:3 Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians **wept** for him seventy days. (**70 days - Num 20:29; deut 34:8 (30 days)**)

Gen. 50:4 ¶ And when the days of **weeping** for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, (**Gen 41:14 unclean mourning hairy**)

Gen. 50:5 '**My father made me swear**, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.'"

Gen. 50:6 And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, **as he made you swear.**"

Gen. 50:7 So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

Gen. 50:8 as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.

Gen. 50:9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.

Gen. 50:10 When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they **lamented** there with a very great and **grievous lamentation**, and he made a **mourning** for his father seven days.

Gen. 50:11 When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the **mourning** on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a **grievous mourning** by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.

Jn 11:5-44 (grief is not weakness)

Rom 12:15 (so weep with the world but not like the world)

Hope is not optional

Gen. 50:12 **Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them,**

Gen. 50:13 for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and **buried** him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a **burying** place.

Gen. 50:14 After he had **buried** his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to **bury** his father.

1 Th 4:13 (do not be surprised by death, grieve but not without hope)

Acts 2:23-32 (He loosened the pangs of death)

Rom 6:1-11 (we have died to death)

2 Cor 4:11-5:9 (we are not surprised by it)

1 Cor 15:51-55 (we are not afraid)

1 Cor 15:19-26 (Our hope is in an empty tomb)

1 Pet 1:3-4 (a living hope)

1 Pet 3:15 (tel them Sunday's coming)