

DOES JESUS CARE ?

Int.

1. **Aim:** To show that Jesus cares for us, is compassionate toward us, and is our friend.
2. I Pet. 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you."
 - a. In the two verses before Peter emphasized the importance of humility - He said:

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" 1 Pet. 5:6
 - b. The person who is wise will humble himself before the Lord realizing that God will exalt us in due time.
 - c. Then in v. 7 we are told to:
 - (1) Cast all our cares upon him - word cast means to Deposit
 - (2) Because he cares for us - cares = to be of interest to, concern
 - d. BBE "Putting all your troubles on him, for he takes care of you."
3. This lesson is about Jesus and how he cares for us in our life on earth.

Discussion

I. JESUS CARES FOR US

- A. It's sad to think that no one cares for us.
- B. Elijah felt this way - I Kings 19
 1. He had won a great victory with the contest of the prophets of Baal - God gave him this great victory
 2. Yet he is at his greatest moment of defeat as he sits under a juniper tree thinking he is all alone.
 3. He even asked God to take his life.
 4. Little did Elijah know how much God really cared for him and how much more he planned to use him.

C. Sometimes we feel all alone, depressed and lonely. We get the idea that no one cares. But remember -- Jesus Cares. Jesus cared about a number of people:

1. **STEPHEN** - Acts 7

- a. Stephen had preached a wonderful sermon about Christ
- b. The angry Jews ground their teeth together in a rage
- c. During this time Stephen saw the heavens opened and Christ standing on the right hand of God.
- d. The Jews then ran upon him and stoned him to death because they didn't care for Stephen. But Jesus cared.
- e. Acts 7:59-60 "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

2. **JAILOR** - Acts 16:30-34

- a. Who would really care about a jailor? Jesus did.
- b. Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi. God caused a great earthquake to shake the foundations of the prison and loose the chains of Paul and Silas and the others.
- c. The Jailor thought they had all escaped and he was about to kill himself.
- d. But Paul cried out "Do thyself no harm".
- e. That night the jailor was obedient to Christ.
- f. Who cared about that Jailor. Jesus did. That's why all of these things happened.

3. WIDOW - Mark 12:41-44

- a. One day Jesus watched people offer gifts in the temple
- b. One widow lady came and cast in her mite.
- c. Jesus cared about her.
 - (1) He said that she had given more than they all had because she gave all of her living.
 - (2) Mk. 12:43-44 (NKJV) "So He called His disciples to [Himself] and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."
- d. In the N.T. the Lord has left instructions for taking care of the widows.

Jesus cares for all widows. - I Tim. 5:3ff v. 3 "Honor widows who are really widows."

4. MARY AND MARTHA - John 11

- a. They were broken hearted over the death of their brother Lazarus.
- b. When Jesus came into the city of Bethany they were crying and telling Him that if he had been there this would not have happened.
- c. Jesus cared for their sorrow and the Bible says that "Jesus wept." Jn. 11:35
- d. Jesus cared for their sorrow.

D. SONG "Does Jesus Care?" # 665

1. There is an old Negro spiritual song that says: "Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, sometimes I'm almost to the ground."
2. The man who wrote this song, Frank Graeff, was very despondent and doubting the goodness of God.
3. During these trying days of his life he turned to the Bible and wrote the question and answer poem "Does Jesus Care?". This helped lead him back to optimism and has brought comfort to millions through the years.
4. Each verse presents a problem or series of problems that can cause us to have doubts and be discouraged. Then the chorus answers by saying that He Cares!!
 - a. Verse 1 Heart is pained, many burdens and cares
 - b. Verse 2 Worried about the future and what is about to happen
 - c. Verse 3 Sad because of sin in my life and tears of remorse
 - d. Verse 4 Because of the death of a loved one
 - e. Chorus - He cares, He is touched by my grief

II. JESUS HAS COMPASSION FOR ALL OF US

- A. Heb. 4:15-16 NKJV "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.."

B. Christ knows what it is like to lose loved ones in death.

1. There is strong evidence that Joseph, his stepfather died at an early age. This must have brought sadness to his heart.
2. He wept with Mary and Martha over the death of Lazarus.
3. John the Baptist the forerunner of Christ was killed for doing the work of Christ. Can you imagine the grief he endured over the death of his friend?
4. There is no situation of death but that Christ weeps with us over our loss.

C. Jesus experienced all the emotional responses that we have today.

1. He knows what it is like to have brothers and sister and the problems that exist in a family.
2. He was a carpenter so he knows about the hard labor connected with working.
3. He was betrayed by a close friend - One of his close friends abandoned him. For only 30 pieces of silver Judas betrayed him. So he knows what it is like to have a friend to betray you.
4. He suffered humiliation and injustice - Acts 8:32-33 "The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."
5. He was separated from the One closest to Him - Matt. 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
6. Christ has experienced every life situation. He is able to sympathize with us in our problems.

- D. Jesus is sympathetic to us because he has been tempted in all points like as we are, but he was without sin.
1. Heb.4:15
 2. Whatever your problem, or sorrow in life Jesus has compassion for you and cares.
 3. SONG "Tell It To Jesus Alone" #502

III. JESUS IS OUR FRIEND

- A. Christ has been a friend to more people than anyone else in the world.
1. He has more friends than anyone else
 2. Friends are very valuable and we need to keep as many as we can, especially the friendship of Christ.
- B. Look at Jesus as our friend:
1. Pro. 18:24 "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.." This is Christ our Lord.
 2. Christ is not selective in his friends. We might have been excluded. Jesus was accused of being a friend to publicans and sinners. Mt.11:19 -- and he was!!
 - a. Many times we abandon those who we call our friends - especially if they get into trouble. We are afraid that their troubles or sins may hurt us, so we drop them.
 - b. A true friend is one who knows all about us, and yet loves us just the same.
 - c. A true friend will never leave nor forsake us.
 - d. Jesus is a friend who ".will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb.13:5b

3. Jesus called his disciples his friends - Lk. 12:4,5
4. Christ said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." Jn.15:14

C. Sometimes we bear pain in life because we do not lean on our friends.

1. This causes great pain for us.
2. SONG "What a Friend we Have in Jesus." # 623

Conclusion

1. Does Jesus Care?
 - a. Yes he cares - he died for you and me - He gave himself in death that we might have life with him. Heb. 2:9
 - b. He has compassion for all of us in whatever situation of life we may be.
 - c. He is a friend for life if we will stick with him.
2. Ps. 55:22 "Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.."
3. Jesus even cares for sinners:
 - a. That's why he gave himself - John 3:16
 - b. He wants you to be saved from sin:
 - i. Believe - John 8:24
 - ii. Repent - Lk. 13:3
 - iii. Confess - Rom. 10:10
 - iv. Baptized - Mk. 16:16
 - c. Sinner if you reject Christ you are grieving him even more.

4. Jesus cares for us and provides us the hope that will see us through the darkest hours of our life. So that we can live in hope of that eternal life with him. There we will never have any sorrow, or pain or heartache.
5. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4
6. Why not BRING CHRIST YOUR BROKEN LIFE # 62

Does Jesus Care

Frank E. Graeff, 1901

1. Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?
 2. Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?
 3. Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief there is no relief,
Though my tears flow all the night long?
 4. Does Jesus care when I've said "goodbye"
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks—
Is it aught to Him? Does He see?
- * Refrain:
Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - April 26, 2009
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurhofchrist.org