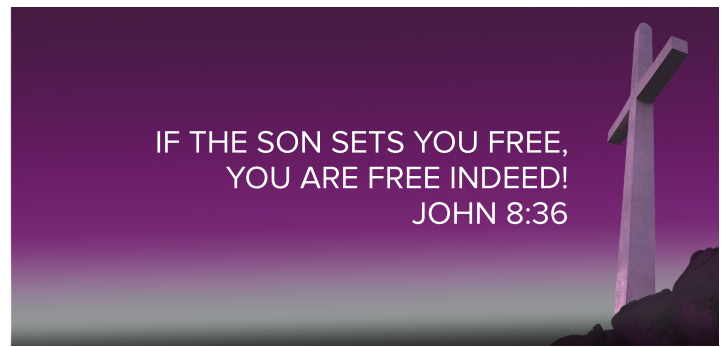


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

He said, “Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep.” –Luke 8:52

I was looking through Martha’s final text messages to me. Her opening words were: “I got the results of the MRI. The tumor has spread in the brain.” I was out of the country and texted her back, letting her know that I was praying for a miracle and for the strength and peace which God has promised (John 14:27). She responded: “Amen. Thank you so much.” That’s the last I heard from her. I was touched by her God-given courage and peace. She died a few days later. But what about the family that she left behind? Can we be at peace when a close relative or friend passes away, and we are left with the pain of their absence? Every time I visit my parents’ tomb, I thank God that they are safe in His keeping.

By the time Jesus arrived at Jairus’s house, his daughter had died; “they were all weeping and lamenting for her” (Luke 8:52). At that point, Jesus made a surprising declaration: “Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep” (verse 52). Then He took her by the hand and raised her from the dead! (verse 54). Jesus was saying that her death was not permanent but only temporary, like a deep sleep. He made the same assertion about Lazarus’s death. When Jesus died, His victory over death was demonstrated by the fact that many who had fallen asleep were raised from the dead (see Matthew 27:52). I find great peace in knowing that my parents are safe in God’s keeping. They are not floating around in some kind of limbo, nor are they conscious. They are safely resting in Jesus, awaiting His call. I want to share with you a quotation that is very comforting to me: “ ‘Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints’ (Psalm 116:15, NKJV). Some may regard this as a strange statement; it is nevertheless true. The servants of God who are now sleeping, are to Him exceedingly precious. So long as time shall last, the influence of their godly life will continue to yield rich fruitage. No longer can the enemy of the human race imperil their welfare; they are safe from his power. Jesus claims them as His own, and on the morning of the resurrection He will bestow upon them the fullness of joy.”* Be at peace. Our loved ones are safe in the Savior’s keeping!

*Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press®, 1943), 476.