



S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

When The Saints Go Marchin' In

Isaiah 57:1-2

NOTES INTRODUCTION Coming to grips with death is no easy task. When someone close to us passes away, we often find ourselves caught in the tension of mourning their loss but also feeling the pressure to move forward with our lives because we know that's what our loved ones would have wanted us to do. But that's much easier said than done. So how do we walk through such circumstances? How do we grieve the loss of those we love and know when it's time to move on with life? Well, that's what we're going to learn from the words of Isaiah in this message. We're going to look at three specific truths that we can take from Scripture that will help guide us and encourage us as we walk through a season of loss. **KEY POINTS** 1. The Faithful Should Be Remembered One thing we don't do enough is spend time remembering those who died. Now, it is not as though we completely forget them and disregard them when they pass away. We have a showing of their body, followed by a ceremony honoring their lives. But then what? After the ceremony, how much time is spent remembering the impact these people had on our lives? Now, for close relatives, this might be easier. That person left such a huge gap in your life, so you think of them constantly. But what about those you weren't necessarily around every day but still touched your life in an impactful way? That is exactly what Isaiah 57 is telling us. That is how this chapter opens. It opens with God through the prophet telling us to take time to remember the faithful. He does not want us to be so caught up in moving forward without remembering the righteous, the good people in our community. Therefore, we need to be diligent and intentional about remembering those who were faithful in our lives. May we not soon forget the impact they made on us while they were still here on earth. 2. The Faithful Have Been Rescued We need to remember that God-who is the Ultimate Giver and Taker of life—in making the decision to come and get His own, is in fact rescuing them from some pain, some predicament, or some problem.

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For the people in our key Scripture passage, the evil was suffering at the hands of the Babylonians. But for our sisters and brothers in Christ, they were rescued from disease, heartache, and pain.

Rather than allowing his children to continue to endure sadness and suffering that none of us wants our loved ones to endure, God rescues them from agony, anguish, and distress. Death, the prophet wants us to know, releases our loved ones and our brothers and sisters in Christ from the evils and the pain they endured in this world. The weapons that were formed against them (i.e. cancer, loneliness, depression) will no longer be able to hurt them; no more heartache, no more pain, no more distress, no more disease. God, has RESCUED them and has transferred them to the land of "no more."

While death for the unbeliever is the beginning of the end, for the believer, God is just getting started. The Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. It's a sacred reunion with God where there will be no sickness, no more sadness, and no more pain. While we mourn, we can find solace in the fact that our loved one has been rescued.

3. The Faithful Will Find Rest

In verse 2, the prophet says, "Those who walk uprightly enter into peace and rest on their couches." What a picture of the benefits guaranteed to the believer. These words are designed to comfort those of us who remain knowing that our loved ones didn't just get delivered from something, they got delivered to something. And what they've been delivered to is REST.

So even though we grieve and mourn the passing of our loved one, and even though we were not able to say our goodbyes the way we would have preferred, the good news is they've received a promise on the other side. Death, the writer implies, is like a door. There's an exit on one side, but an entrance on the other side. On this side, they may have endured a cancer battle, but on the other side, they found rest for their weary souls. On this side, they fought sickness, but on the other side, they are celebrating. That's rest.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you ever walked through the loss of a loved one? What was that experience like for you?
- 2. How can you intentionally remember those who have impacted your life but are no longer here on earth?
- 3. Which of today's three truths (remembering, rescue, rest) brings you the most comfort when it comes to mourning the loss of a loved one? Explain your answer.

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