

PK's Perspectives ... Darkness

I know that some of you reading this newsletter are struggling through a dark & difficult season of your life. Maybe you feel the darkness is closing in and there are days you're not sure if you can carry on. The following story is for you. God knows, God sees, and God loves you more than you can imagine. God does not watch you from a far away place; He not only walks with you every step of your journey, He carries you more often than not. I hope this story encourages you...or pass it on to someone who might need the encouragement.

He was a strong man facing an enemy beyond his strength. His young wife had become gravely ill, then suddenly passed away, leaving the big man alone with a wide-eyed, flaxen-haired girl, not quite five years old.

The service in the village chapel was simple, and heavy with grief. After the burial at the small cemetery, the man's neighbors gathered around him. "Please, bring your little girl and stay with us for several days," someone said. "You shouldn't go back home just yet."

Broken hearted though he was, the man answered, "Thank you, friends, for the kind offer. But we need to go back home – where she was. My baby and I must face this."

So they returned, the big man and his little girl, to what now seemed an empty, lifeless house. The man brought his daughter's little bed into his room, so they could face the first dark night together. As the minutes slipped by that night, the young girl was having a dreadful time trying to sleep...and so was her father. What could pierce a man's heart deeper than a child sobbing for a mother who would never come back?

Long into the night the little one continued to weep. The big man reached down into her bed and tried to comfort her as best he could. After a while, the little girl managed to stop crying – but only out of sorrow for her father. Thinking his daughter was asleep, the father looked up and said brokenly, "I trust You, Father, but...it's as dark as midnight!" Hearing her dad's prayer, the little girl began to cry again. "I thought you were asleep, baby," he said.

"Papa, I did try. I was sorry for you. I did try. But I couldn't go to sleep. Papa, did you ever know it could be so dark? Why Papa? I can't even see you, it's so dark." Then through her tears, the little girl whispered, "But you love me even if it's dark, don't you Papa? You love me even if I don't see you, don't you Papa?"

For an answer, the big man reached across with his massive hands, lifted his little girl out of her bed, brought her over onto his chest, and held her, until at last she truly fell asleep. When she was finally quiet, he began to pray. He took his little daughter's cry to him, and passed it up to God.

"Father, it's dark as midnight. I can't see you at all. But you love me, even when it's dark and I can't see, don't you?" From that blackest of hours the Lord touched him with new strength, enabling him to carry on. In that holy moment when an earthly father desperately cried out to his eternal Father, the man knew that God went on loving him, even in the dark.