



Finding Your Song in Your Sorrow



Unwrapping the Grave Clothes

Jesus said to them, 'unbind him and let him go.' John 11:44.

No one at Lazarus' funeral wanted the stone to be rolled away from the tomb, much less unwrap his grave clothes - because, they said, it would stink! John 11:39.

Death stinks. Everything about it stinks. It totally stinks that my son, and your child died!

As a hospice nurse I came to know the "smell of death" even before one dies. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus approached the tomb. Did Jesus wait to make sure he was not just dead, but good and dead, so people would not doubt the miracle? Was He giving Mary and Martha time to grieve? Those faithful gatherers believed Jesus could have healed him. The sisters affirmed, "If You were here ..." and "If you had gotten here sooner ..."

Jesus wept with them despite knowing he was going to resurrect Lazarus. I believe He wept with us knowing He was going to resurrect our child. After all, He's labeled The Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, Isaiah 53.

There comes a time when He says to us, too, "unbind him and let him go!" In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, "... let (King James Version uses an appropriate word, "suffer") the children come to Me, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven."



You may not be ready to completely unravel the grave clothes and set your child free, but what if, just what if, you do, and instead of it stinking, a beautiful aroma for Christ diffuses. Lazarus' aroma certainly did! It brought crowds of followers to Jesus, John 12:9.

Discovery Dialog with your Composer:

2 Corinthians 2:16, What does this say about the aroma of death versus the aroma of life?

Prayer:

Lord, give me the strength to unravel my child's grave clothes one strip at a time, releasing an aroma of life.
Selah:

I will allow my child to become an "aroma of life" to others.

