

Teach us to number our days

**Psalms 39:4-6 (NRSV) ⁴ "LORD, let me know my end,
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.**

**⁵ You have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.**

Selah

**⁶ Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.**

The last days of the year are fast ticking to a close. So many different kinds of news assault us from various directions. Yesterday I received the news about a very sudden death of the husband of one of my dear friends. Her boy is just 8 months. This is her personal upheaval, earthquake. Yet so many years lie before her. The Lord has to comfort her rebuild her and restore her.

She lived a very hard life. She is from a very poor family, with 4 sisters. Her parents died young and she went to work in a cloth factory on annual basis and worked hard and long years to marry her sisters. One by one they were married and she was all alone and in her early thirties. Once when her sister's husband met with an accident she was in the hospital to take care of the family. It was then one of her brother-in-law's friends who came to the hospital proposed to marry her which she accepted. They married and came to the church where I did a Bible study. She had only heard about Jesus but did not know anything , so her husband had suggested that she attend the Bible study so that she could know more about Jesus.

I knew her from day one and I liked her very much. She was very simple and didn't read much. But her heart opened. For me it was a joy to see her grow from seed. She started reading the word. During the break she would tell me she did not understand the Biblical language. Slowly she started praying, reading the Word and blooming.

There were problems with her health, problems with conceiving a child and also giving birth. But what amazed me was her deep faith in surmounting all

of them with her faith. Now at last things seemed stable in her life with her son growing up healthy. I still can't believe this husband of hers had died.

I can't believe it, but then it is what it is. She was telling me some days back, that she wanted to testify all the good things that the Lord had done in her life in the New Year Service. But now her husband is not here on earth anymore. She is still in her thirties with an eight month old son. What future hopes can she dream of now?

How we wish there was an undo button in our lives? When I heard this news over phone yesterday, I was telling in my heart, "Lord let it not be her, let it not be her." I called another to make sure whether it was really her. My heart refused to believe awhile. I think and grieve and mourn, but what now.

I am so tossed inside, yet turning the pages of the Word of God, we are called to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Life after death of a beloved, that too a very untimely death changes all familiar equations of life. It is still worse for those who are also economically dependent on the spouse.

Yet it is this faith that underneath are the everlasting arms of the Father sustains in such dark hours. My friend's life will never be the same again.

But the God who carries her never changes. He is compassionate and grieves with her. He also is her healer and provider.

We are at the threshold of another year. Let us stop and think where we are headed to. What if death comes calling? Are we prepared?

I have a lot of to-do-lists. I still have a card from one of my friends who lost her father in which said, "I could not even say good bye."

Yet in all this, death need not pull us to despair.

It is only the living who mourn and grieve, but the dead who die in the saving knowledge of Christ REJOICE.

For us looking at life linearly, say 2001, 2002,2003...2012,2013...we heave a sigh thinking how long life is. But God who looks at times from eternity :
1 day = 1000 years and 1000 years = 1 day.

So we need God's revelation to look at personal bereavements and losses from His perspective and keep looking and walking to that City whose builder is God Himself.

Hebrews 11:9-10 (NRSV) ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW_3kHHvk8M