

of us. Yet He wants us to have no terror of it but to realize that Jesus Christ has conquered death and the important thing is whether we are making our lives count for Him. We have only one life and only what is done for Christ will last.

A second area I would like to speak about is the matter of the death of a loved one. This is something which to a young person may seem far away if you have never had the experience. I would like to say this that anyone who has never lost a parent has no idea what it means to lose a parent.

My father was a physician up in Northern Michigan where it was cold and deep snow. He used to go out night after night to see patients. He worked and toiled through many years there, as a physician. He literally wore himself out. He became an invalid --for nearly 20 years he was an invalid. Not bed ridden, but an invalid. My mother said that he had five illnesses any one of which she said would kill an ordinary person. During those 20 years as he constantly grew ~~ssa~~ weaker, he (we) never knew from one month to the next whether he would still be with us. We constantly had the feeling, he may die this week, he may die next week, he may die next week.

For 20 years it went on. And you would think by that time you would get quite used to the idea that your parent was going to die. Yet when I in Philadelphia received a phone call from Los Angeles telling me that my father had had a stroke and had died, the experience was something that I never in my life had experienced. It was just like a tremendous blow, as if you had a terrible blow and a tremendous wound. For a month I could hardly speak without being on the edge of breaking into tears. It so filled my being that I just could not understand it. I did all I could to try to comfort my mother but I could not even feel any tenderness toward her. Because all my emotion was taken out with my father's passing after 20 years in which we had thought every day might be his last.

You cannot understand what the passing of a loved one means unless you have had the experience. But it is something that will come to everyone of us at least once, if we ourselves continue to live on this earth. I think it is important that we have an understanding, a realization of what we can expect when it comes. Oh if your parents know the Lord you feel bad enough with the wound but you realize they have gone to be with Christ. It is far better where they are. Far better than anything they could have in this life. Oh you can rejoice for them in your heart though your emotions are torn and there is a wound there you cannot escape. It takes time to wear out and to get over.

Yet with your mind you can rejoice that they are in the presence of the Lord. But Oh suppose your parent doesn't know the Lord. And they die. That is the end of any chance of receiving Christ, and how you must feel if you have never witnessed to them about Christ. But if you have witnessed to them, if you have told them about Christ