

Pastor Ron Case  
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## “Sorrow”

### **Abraham (Part 18)**

*“Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us.”*  
*(Ecclesiastes 7:3 NLT)*

#### **Sorrowing over Sarah**

**Genesis 23:1-2** – (1) “Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. (2) And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.”

#### **Sorrowing while Sojourning**

**Genesis 23:3-9** – (3) And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, (4) ‘I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.’ (5) The Hittites answered Abraham, (6) ‘Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.’ (7) Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. (8) And he said to them, ‘If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, (9) that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.’”

#### **Sorrowing through Scams**

**Genesis 23:10-20** – (10) “Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, (11) ‘No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.’ (12) Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. (13) And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, ‘But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.’ (14) Ephron answered Abraham, (15) ‘My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.’ (16) Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver,

according to the weights current among the merchants. (17) So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over (18) to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. (19) After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. (20) The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.”

**“...Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”  
(Luke 6:21)**

### **Sorrowing will not last**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.”  
(John 16:20)

### **Sorrowing puts us in good company**

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:3)

### **Questions to Ponder:**

- (1) What impacted me most from this message?
- (2) Do I buy into the artificial, hyped up happiness that our cultural values?
- (3) Do I understand the distinction between Godly sorrow and the sorrow of the world? (2 Cor. 7:10)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)