



The Good Life
ACCORDING TO THE BEATITUDES



THE BLESSINGS ARE BYPRODUCTS NOT
PREREQUISITES



THE BLESSINGS DESCRIBE A LIFE APPLAUDED BY GOD
(EVEN IF IT DOESN'T FEEL THAT "BLESSED")



THE BEATITUDES PAINT A COMPOSITE
PICTURE OF THE GOOD LIFE

THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:3-12



Blessed are the mourners



Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies— so the living should take this to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4

Blessed are...

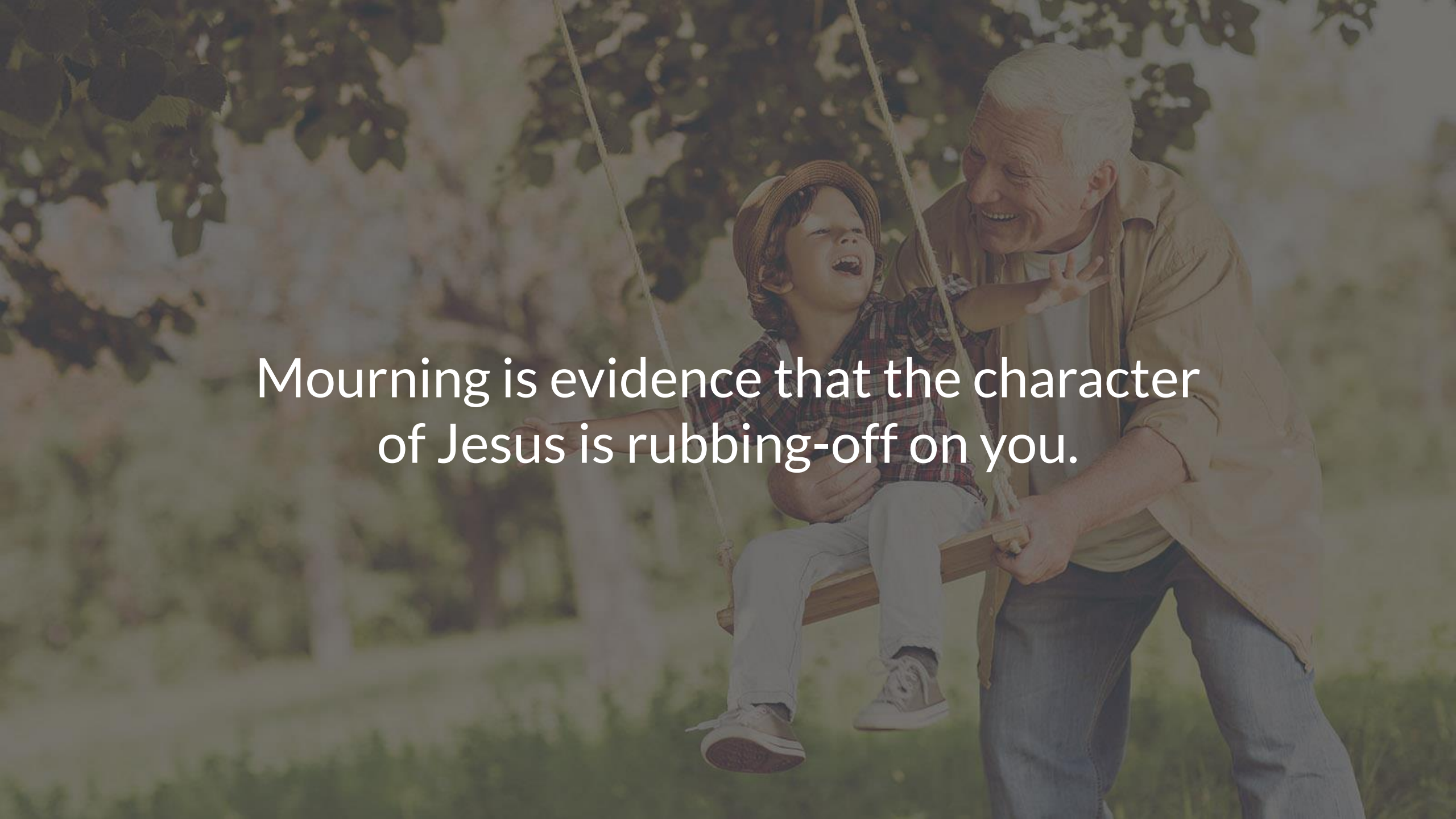
The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.

Lamentations 3:19-22

Blessed are...



Blessed are the mourners

A young boy with curly hair, wearing a straw hat and a plaid shirt, is swinging happily on a wooden swing set. An elderly man with white hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and jeans, is smiling and pushing the swing. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and greenery. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

Mourning is evidence that the character
of Jesus is rubbing-off on you.

WHAT ARE WE MOURNING ABOUT?

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1. Our own sinfulness



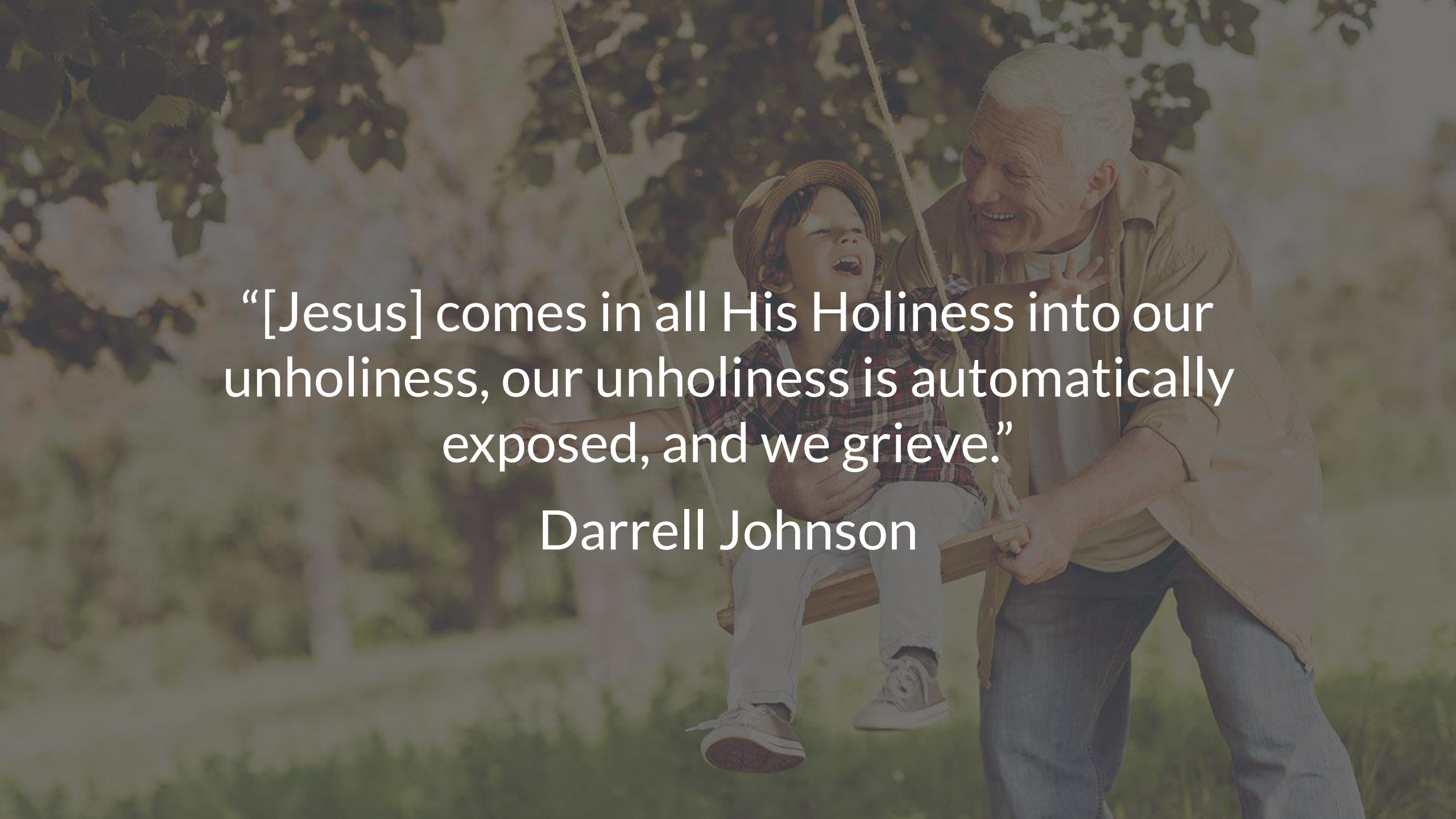
WHAT ARE WE MOURNING ABOUT?

1. Our own sinfulness



Go away from me Lord. For I am a sinful man.



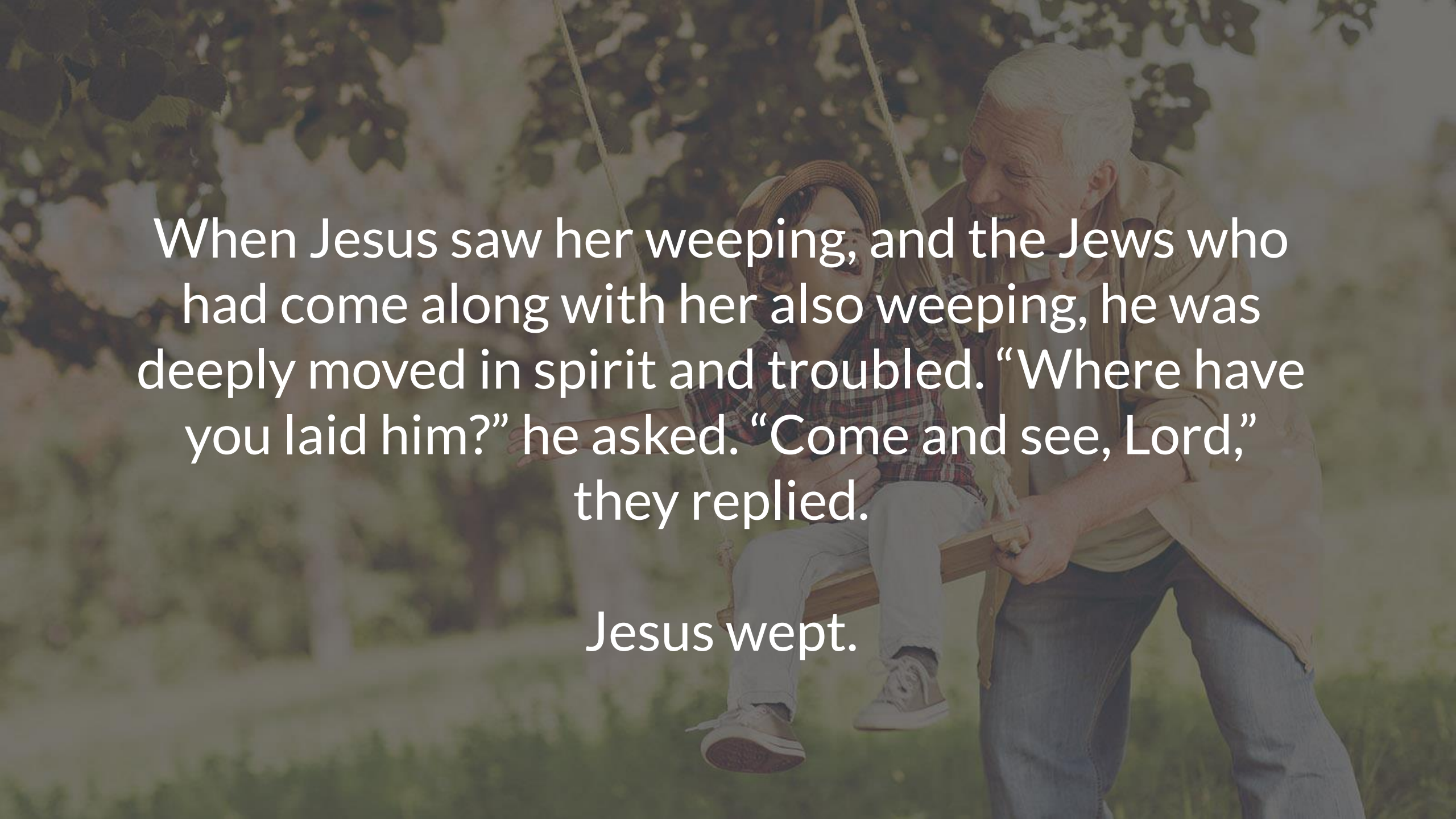


“[Jesus] comes in all His Holiness into our unholiness, our unholiness is automatically exposed, and we grieve.”

Darrell Johnson

WHAT ARE WE MOURNING ABOUT?

1. Our own sinfulness
2. The brokenness of the world.



When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Who then are the mourners? The mourners are those who have caught a glimpse of God's new day, who ache with all their being for that new day's coming and break out into tears when confronted with its absence. They are the ones who realize that in God's realm of peace there is no one blind and who ache whenever they see someone unseeing. They are the ones who realize that in God's realm there is no one hungry and ache whenever they see someone starving.

Blessed are...

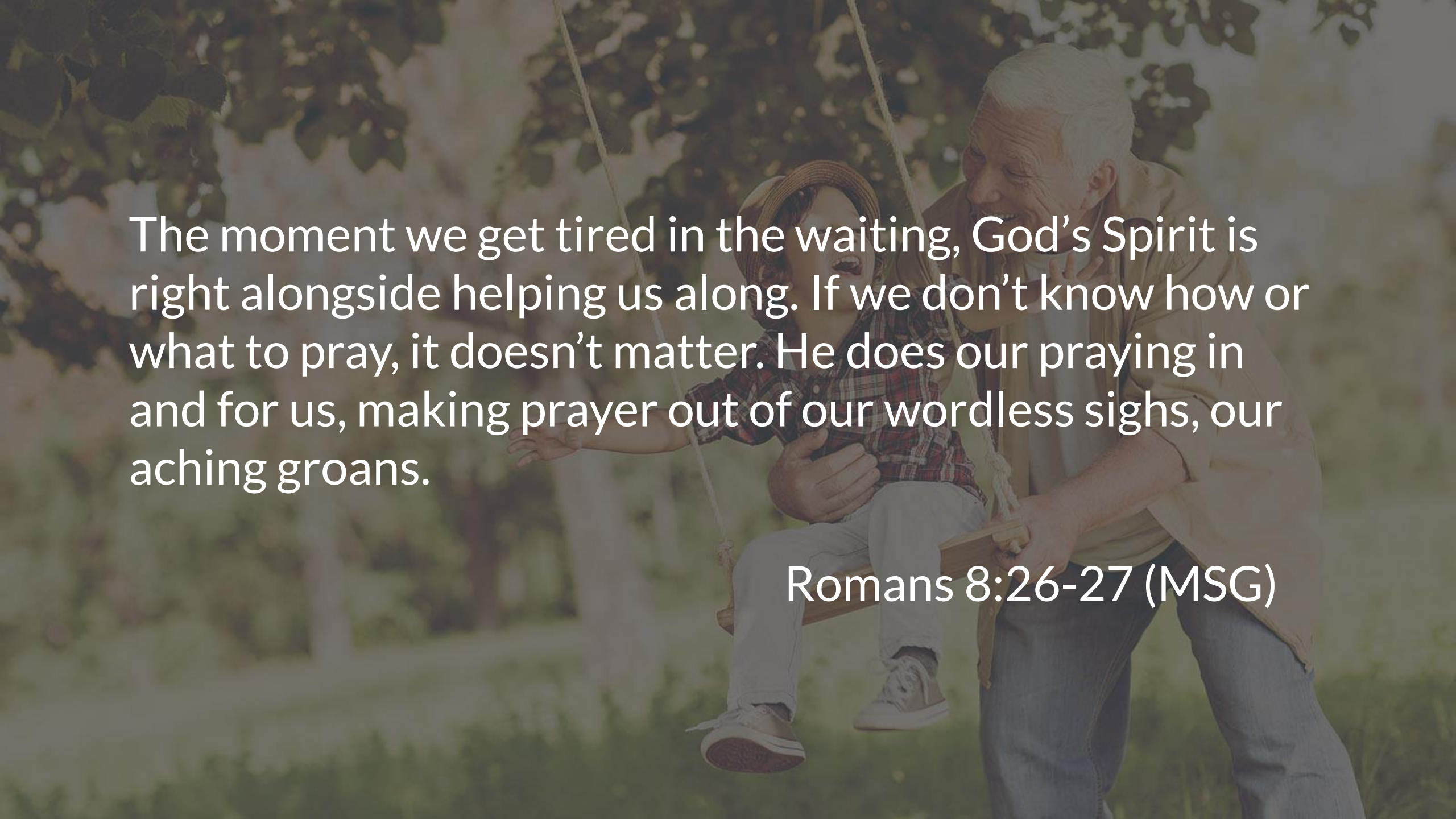
They are the ones who realize that in God's realm there is no one falsely accused and who ache whenever they see someone imprisoned unjustly. They are the ones who realize that in God's realm there is no one who fails to see God and who ache whenever they see someone unbelieving.... They are the ones who realize that in God's realm of peace there is neither death nor tears and who ache whenever they see someone crying tears over death. The mourners are aching visionaries.

Blessed are...

Nicholas Wolterstoffs
Lament for a Son



WHAT ABOUT THE COMFORT?

An elderly man with white hair, wearing a light-colored jacket and blue jeans, is smiling and pushing a young child on a swing. The child is wearing a plaid shirt, light-colored pants, and a straw hat, and is laughing joyfully. The background is a soft-focus park setting with green grass and trees. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans.

Romans 8:26-27 (MSG)

The Holy Spirit identifies with our groans,
with the pain of the world and the church,
and shares in the longing for the final
freedom of both. We and he groan together.

John Stott

1. Why are you mourning today?
2. What are you asking God to do?



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