

Comfort Through Pain and Loss

Jennifer Richmond ~ October 2, 2017



DEAR SISTERS,

Like you, I'm in a state of disbelief, horror, and complete grief over the evil events we all woke up to today. I find myself crying then praying, asking why, then crying again. I imagine you're experiencing something of the same. I'm thinking of each of you and praying for you by name this morning that God would comfort your heart and guide you in wisdom as you process these events and seek for some degree of understanding.

I DON'T THINK it is a coincidence that in our women's Bible study we read today that Jesus is...the heir, the radiance, the source, the creator and the upholder of all things. While these truths of who Jesus is may feel distant on a day like today, they are nonetheless true and ultimately, they are the most important truths.

WHILE WE GRIEVE AND WRESTLE, seeking for comfort through this tragedy, may we always come back to the truth of Scripture. In that truth, we will find answers. I am also aware that many of you were already dealing with deep grief and hurts today. This shooting only compounds the ache on your heart, and for that I am especially prayerful.

JESUS SAID THAT HE WOULD leave us with peace - His peace. A peace that is distinct from the peace offered by the world. Why is that? Simply - and yet profoundly - because worldly peace is founded at best on the wishful thinking that people will rise up to offer hope and solutions from the power within themselves and at worst it is offered with no foundation - it's simply wishing on the wind. BUT JESUS CAME TO OFFER something significantly more -

true peace. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." His peace is that which "guards our hearts and minds" and isn't that

just what we need today - a guard on our mind to keep us from wandering away or rejecting God and a guard on our heart to keep us filled with His love and comfort?

THE PEACE WE HAVE as believers is sure because Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus can completely sympathize with us. He has provided a way for us to come to him in our brokenness and confusion, in our anger and sorrow and to "draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

LET US COME TOGETHER through prayer and perhaps in person and comfort one another. Let's be tender in offering words of truth and hope that are founded on God's word. We weep with those who weep...and today that is every one of us know that He is, "near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." and today surely that is all of us.

I'M PRAYING FOR YOU, thinking of you and your families as you process things together. If you need more and would like to talk and pray and process this together, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm available anytime.

For the sake of Christ and in His love,

Jennifer

LET'S BE TENDER IN OFFERING WORDS OF TRUTH AND HOPE THAT ARE FOUNDED ON GOD'S WORD.

WHILE WE GRIEVE AND WRESTLE, SEEKING FOR COMFORT THROUGH THIS TRAGEDY, MAY WE ALWAYS COME BACK TO THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE.