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## Does Jesus care for me?

You may know the hymn's opening question,

"Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth and song, as the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?"

More than knowing the words, you may have known those feelings.

In the next verses the hymn writer asks if Jesus cares in his dark nights with a nameless dread and fear, and then too of trying and failing to resist a strong temptation. The last verse asks,

"Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye to the dearest on earth to me, and my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks, is it aught to Him? Does He see?"

The man who wrote this experienced his share, and perhaps more, of deep pain and heartaches. When he was 40 he had already lost two-thirds of his immediate family. With all of that he concludes the song with,

"O yes, He cares. I know He cares! His heart is touched with my grief. When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares."

You may have known days, even seasons when your heart is aching, is pained too deeply to sing joyful songs of praise. You may wonder, "Does Jesus care for me? *Really?*"

What do you do? What should you do? What can you do?

The first thing is to face, to acknowledge those feelings. Don't try to ignore or deny them, for whatever reason. King David was open with God about his feelings. He cried out to God,

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my help are the words of my groaning. My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest." (Psalm 22:1-2)

Jesus called out to the Father with these words when He was on the cross (Matthew 27:46). Acknowledge the feelings, recognize the trials that trigger them are part of life and so, as the apostle Peter tells us, "do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you" (1 Peter 4:12).



Then, turn to God, and truth about and from God to put your feelings in perspective and to work through them.

- Jesus does care for you, no matter how you feel or whatever you think. God tells us through Peter,

“cast all your anxiety on [God], because He cares for you.”

(1 Peter 5:7)

This is God’s unchanging truth about Himself and about You.

- Jesus hears you when you call out to Him, even when you doubt it. King David tells us,

“The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth” (Psalm 145:8).

God assures us through David,

“Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken” (Psalm 55:22).

- When you don’t sense His care, when you doubt it, remember Jesus tells us,

“Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?” (Luke 12:27-28).

- Remember that nothing can separate you from God and His love for you.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39)

The gospel song *It Won’t Rain Always* sings,

Someone said that in each life some rain is bound to fall. And each one sheds His share of tears and trouble troubles us all. But the hurt can’t hurt forever, and the tears are sure to dry. And it won’t rain always, the clouds will soon be gone. The sun that they’ve been hiding has been there all along. And it won’t rain always, God’s promises are true. The Son’s gonna shine in His own good time and He will see you through. The Son’s gonna shine in God’s own good time, and He’s gonna see you through.”