*Heaven-Sent Promises in the Midst of Our Earth-bound Pain*

“Everybody hurts. Sometimes.” That is the truth of this sin-filled life. We are not alone, though. While grief may be a companion in this life, Christ is still the treasure of our hearts.

WHEN?

**The Waiting Room called “When?”**

We’ve all heard people use the phrase *“in the meantime”* while they’re waiting for something. When we’re in the waiting room, the*“meantime,”* waiting for our healing or our miracle, it’s often pretty *mean,* isn’t it?

So, what do we do in the *meantime*? How do we keep our faith and trust that God is working when we can’t see it?

**Focus Verse**

**You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle.**

**Are they not in your book?**

 **Psalm 56:8**

**Praise Him in Your Pain**One of the most important things we can do in our pain is worship God. He’s worthy of it every day. What are some ways that we might be able to tell our stories with others in helpful ways?

**How Telling Our Story Can Be Helpful**

1. It Allows Others to Know How to Help
2. It Helps Us See How We Are Tied to the Larger Story of Salvation
3. It Can Be Cathartic

**Keep Lifting**In the midst of this pain, you may only see weakness on your part, not the spiritual muscles you’re developing. Many say that trials *make or break us.* How does God help us to keep lifting during the “When?” questions we might ask in life?

Read Luke 2:18-20

18And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:50-52

50And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in statureand in favor with God and man.

The fulfillment of the things spoken for Mary would eventually pierce her soul with a sword. (Luke 2:35) especially when she would witness her Son’s crucifixion.

Why would it be so important that Mary give attention not only to the horrific manner in which her Son died, but also to the details she had treasured up in her heart, such as his birth and childhood?

The Focus Verse Psalm 56:8 – *You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?*

How does this passage apply to Mary’s life as she pondered her Son’s purpose for her life?

**Pour Out Your Heart**

Read Romans 12:12.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, be constant in prayer.

Evaluate: All of the pain you’re carrying doesn’t scare God.

**Keep Eternity in Mind**

Read 1 Peter 4:12-13

12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Why is it important that we keep our eyes focused on eternity?

How does our eternal perspective help us with our “When?” questions?

**Personal Reflection:**

If you’re in the waiting room in your life, ask God to show you something he’s doing in and through you each day.

From today’s Bible study, which verses resonate with you the most? Write your thoughts.