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## What does Jesus teach about ... DEATH?



Alfred Nobel woke up to a grim and unexpected notice one morning. In the local paper he read his own obituary! You see, the local reporter had mistaken the death of Alfred's brother for his own. But the appearance of Alfred's obituary did not alarm him as much as what he read in that obituary. It read, "The Dynamite King has died!" Alfred was described as the man who had made a great fortune from his invention of dynamite. Sadly, he would be remembered by the world as someone who profited from bringing disaster; a merchant of death and destruction.

Many of us may wonder how we will be remembered after we die. Maybe more than once the question asked so jokingly in the commercial, "What do you want on your tombstone?" has occupied our minds.

Someone once said, "Death is the ultimate statistic." It's a hardened reality that is so completely inescapable. Death can fill us with a feeling of defenselessness. Most of us do not get the opportunity to reflect on our own death like Alfred did. So when these thoughts creep into our minds, we find ourselves with a lot more questions than answers. When? ... Where? .... WHY?

Our God desires a different statistic for all people. Our Savior Jesus Christ says, "*I have come that they may have life and have it to the full*" (John 10:10). This life that Jesus offers each of us extends beyond the grave. It is life in its fullest; it is life with God forever!

Jesus does not want us to have a heart full of worry and questions about death. Instead he wants us to be confident of his power over death. Jesus declares, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies*" (John 11:25). Even though death will make its unwanted visit, Jesus breaks through the gloom of death with the assurance that he will raise all the dead and give eternal life in heaven to those who believe in him.

It's not so important how people remember us after we die. What is important is that we know Jesus before we die. When questions about death plague our minds, Jesus teaches us to be confident that through faith in him we will live forever!