

**6-3-16 Ethel Stankus Funeral Message  
WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED**

Intro: Today we are gathered together to honor the memory of Ethel Stankus.. Frank showed me a picture which represents 5 generations of Ethel's children. God promised a blessing to those who love Him to the 4th generation .. Ethel was able to see a blessing to the 5th generation.. She had 4 children, 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

The family requested that my wife and I share a song in Ethel's memory..

THE SONG GOES ALONG WITH THE MESSAGE I WILL BE SHARING AND ALSO ALONG WITH THE SCRIPTURE I HAVE CHOSEN...

Scripture Reading:

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

....

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

The Song we chose to sing in Ethel's Memory was written by Fanny Crosby in her later years.. as she was meditating on the fact that some day soon she would be taken home to be with the Lord.. having lived most of her life blind.. she penned this great hymn..

Some day the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing,  
But, O, the joy when I awake  
Within the palace of the King.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

IN MEMORY OF ETHEL.. I WANT TO SHARE A MESSAGE TAKEN FROM THIS TEXT IN THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES. AND ALSO FROM THIS SONG..

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

This morning I want to talk to you about:

**WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED:**

**FIRST CONSIDER:**

## **I. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED ALL OUR EARTHLY ASSETS TURN TO DUST**

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was..

Dust to dust..

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

When I think of a silver cord.. I think of a very fragile thing.. Imagine a cord being made out of silver. How pretty it would be.. but how fragile it would be also..

Frank said.. his mom .. was tired.. and said she wanted to lie down..

She was not sick..

She was not suffering from cancer.. like so many are afflicted with..

She was not diagnosed with heart problems..

She was not stricken with Pneumonia, a leading cause of death ..

She had not suffered a stroke..

She just was tired.. and said she wanted to lie down.. and in her sleep the Silver Cord was broken .. and her spirit left her body.. and she fell asleep and stayed asleep .. And when she opened her eyes.. she saw Him face to face..

How fragile our lives are.. Years ago.. at the corner at our church I heard and screech and a bang.. truck hit a car.. I ran over there.. and a young man was thrown out of his car and he was lying in the middle of the road.. He looked perfectly fine.. no blood.. not cuts.. but he was dead.. instantly .. The silver cord was broken..

How delicate that cord is.. my life.. your life.. there is only this precious silver cord.. that keeps us in this body.. IT WOULD NOT TAKE MUCH TO BREAK IT!

Ethel had lived what we consider to be a long life. 96 years.. but if you visit a graveyard and do some math you will see that the SILVER CORD IS BROKEN in people of all ages.. As we grow older.. we see more and more people dying who are our age or even younger..

FANNY CROSBY DID THE MATH AND REALIZED that day was coming soon for her. and she wrote these beautiful words..

Some day the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing,  
But, O, the joy when I awake  
Within the palace of the King.  
And I shall see Him face to face,

And tell the story saved by grace.

Some day my earthly house will fall,  
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be,  
But this I know, my All in All  
Has now a place in heaven for me.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

When that silver cord breaks.. and we stand before the Lord.. we leave behind in this world..  
DUST..

Ashes to ashes.. DUST TO DUST..

In that day it will matter little if you are rich or poor..  
When the silver cord breaks and we stand before our God..

There will be no earthly physical belongings that we will carry with us..

The question we need to ask ourselves is what do we love and what do we live for.. IF YOU  
LIVE FOR ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD.. IT WILL TURN TO DUST!

Jesus came to earth to win over your heart,  
WHO OR WHAT HAS YOUR HEART..

Jesus said.. Your heart will show where your treasures are:

EVERYTHING ELSE BUT JESUS LEADS TO DUST:

***Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:***

***Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:***

***Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Everything in this life will burn.. it will rust decay, fall apart.. is destroyed..

Our bodies.. falling apart..  
Our cars.. Rusting..  
Our money .. Being stolen.. Taxes, Medical Bills..  
DUST..

But Jesus showed a better way He came to earth to prove there is something better..

When He walked planet earth He healed people for free..

Just bought new glasses \$500.00 for lenses alone..  
Jesus did it for free he gave sight to the blind freely!

Had a fellow who is a mechanic.. had congestive heart failure and said he is a non believer but thinks logically .. He doesn't believe the Bible he believes in evolution .. he goes to the

Hospital.. and is getting disgusted at the cost. He said every time a doctor comes to check his vitals he notices a bill on the hospital statement.. Bill for this bill for that..

Finally he says to one of the doctors.. he says doc. I'm Mechanic every year a new car comes out that is different from the previous model and we are supposed to learn how to fix them. If I told my customers I didn't know what is wrong with the car and then charged them as much money as you guys charged me I'd be tarred and feathered or put in jail as a fraud...

Now according to your evolution, it says that men have been around exactly as we are for 200,000 years and we have had over 6,000 years of recorded history to study the body and you still don't know how to fix it, but yet you charge me all this money every time you come in to examine me. Each time you come you have no better solution to fix me than the last time you came. Something is wrong.

You see, that man was thinking logically not religiously and he concluded something is wrong.. What is wrong is that man makes cars and we can read how to fix a car. But God made man and the only one that knows how to completely fix man is GOD. Used to be in cases like this the first person people would call is the preacher and the second is the doctor. Back then we knew the only one that had the answers was God. Could you imagine if Chevy or Ford just throw a bunch of parts together to make a car? How is it that we think we are just a biological product of random chance?

God said to Adam and Eve, the day you eat of the forbidden fruit and choose to sin against me you will die.. No doctor can change that - they just don't know why they can't. They can't because God said the wages of sin is death. Because men do not understand why we die, they do not understand what death is and where life comes from. We are not a biological product of chance. Life comes from God alone! In that day when the silver cord is broken the Bible says,

ECC 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, ....

ECC 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

DEATH IS A SEPARATION..

They died that physical day spiritually they were separated from God in the Garden.. cast out that very day.. Spiritual separation from God.. stage 1 of death..

They died in a spiritual way, but physically, in His mercy, God let Adam live 930 years to repent and get saved, and then the silver cord was broken. His soul was separated from his body and that is physical death. The body returned to dust and the spirit returned to God who gave it!

But then there is another death..

***Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***

Your soul is going to spend eternity with the one you love. There are only two choices... The tree that they ate from was a tree called the Knowledge of GOOD and Evil.. Good.. which is God.. or evil which is Satan.. Choose who you serve and who you love. Either God, who is good, or sin, which is from Satan, who is evil.

How sad it is that mankind chose sin and Satan rather than God..

Jesus is our Savior in that He came to earth to pay for our sin and also win over your hearts ..  
Win us over to good.

THINK OF ALL THE GOOD HE DID:

He healed people..

He showed God's love..

He preached the love and goodness of God..

He preached forgiveness of sins

He died for our sins..

To prove he was who he said he was he laid down his life as a propitiation, a payment, for the sins of the world..

A world that has rejected God..

A world that is enmity with God..

A world that says.. this magnificent creation is just a product of biological chance..

A world that gives more honor to the creation than to the creator..

A world that actually thinks we can better fix things by ourselves..

To prove He was who He said he was..

To prove He and His Father created all things..

He offered up himself as a substitute for our sin..

He paid our hell on the cross..

I had a friend one time who said to me.. you don't preach hell fire do you .. people don't like that .. people don't want to hear that today..

I said I do .. but I also preach the good news that Jesus paid our hell fire and brimstone.. if one is true the other is true also.. What He suffered was at least as bad as the penalty we deserve!

Whatever hell is.. it is at least as bad as what He suffered on the cross... for our sin.. and then He went into the grave and descended into the lowest parts of the earth and led captive and ascended into heaven and appeared to his disciples and told them.. Go into all the world and preach the gospel .. And whoever believes on me can have eternal life.. Who ever loves me.. whoever gives their heart to me can have life eternal.. He single handedly defeated death!

HEB 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS..

And all those who love Him when that silver cord shall break..

Can sing.. the song that Fanny Crosby wrote..

**Some day the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing,**

**But, O, the joy when I awake  
Within the palace of the King.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.**

**II. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED OUR SPIRIT RETURNS TO GOD WHO GAVE IT.. WE MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT..**

When that Silver cord breaks.. the Bible says..

***Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.***

God is the giver of life.. and when that Silver cord is broken.. when our Spirits leave our body and we stand before God.. we will give an account to Him for what we have done in this world for Him...

Here is the advice that Solomon gives his readers

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Remember thy creator.. in the days of thy youth!

How many people live their lives.. not ever giving thought to the One who created them.

We deny He created us..

We think we are just a product of biological mutation. What vanity, we have become vain in our imaginations. Paul describes that generation who rejects God as their creator when he says the following. Consider if this is not a descriptive of our society today:

ROM 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROM 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

ROM 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

ROM 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

ROM 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

ROM 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

ROM 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet

**III. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED WE SHALL RECEIVE THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOUR**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

God is good..  
Satan and sin is evil ..

Now while there is breath in your lungs.. it is time to choose who you love and who you will serve, for in that day, if we love Him, we will be rewarded by living with him for all eternity.

Some day my earthly house will fall,  
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be,  
But this I know, my All in All  
Has now a place in heaven for me.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

### **Conclusion:**

What happens when the SILVER CORD IS LOOSED..

- I. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED ALL OUR EARTHLY ASSETS TURN TO DUST**
- II. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED OUR SPIRIT RETURNS TO GOD WHO GAVE IT.. WE MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT..**
- III. WHEN THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED WE SHALL RECEIVE THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOR**

Ethel loved the LORD.. but how sad it is to see people who hate God... they are bitter that people die.. they are bitter about suffering they are bitter about getting sick..

But I have news for you none of these things that they are bitter about are God's doing..

When Jesus stood before Pilate he said,

John 18:36 ..... My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

When I first came to the Elkdale Baptist Church I decided to knock on doors.. I started at the church and went all the way down into Carbondale along route 106.. Just before I got into Carbondale I knocked on a door and the fellow came to the door and said.. I'm not interested he said... but I would like to ask you a question. He said, if God is so powerful why is it that evil seems to be prevailing. It seems Satan is more powerful than God. I proceeded to try and give the man an answer but he would not hear it. You see from his perspective evil seems to be prevailing. But the truth is ..

We have ousted God out of our lives and accepted another god who is not GOD but another..

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

This is why when we pray, we pray

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN HALLOWED BE THY NAME THY KINGDOM COME  
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.. Matthew 6:9

For those of us.. who love the Lord Jesus.. we await his kingdom

We await His return and in that day .. We realize that our hope is not in this world.. we realize we are awaiting His kingdom.

WE SHALL SEE HIM FACE TO FACE  
AND TELL THE STORY SAVED BY GRACE..

And as we await his return, for many of us, that day will come when the Silver Cord will be loosed and the body shall return to dust, but our spirits will return to God, The Bible says that there are some who He will take to be with Him without them ever experiencing physical death. Either way for those who love Him that will be a graduation day.

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I hope you will fall in love with the Lord Jesus so that as Fanny Crosby wrote too can say:

Some day the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing,  
But, O, the joy when I awake  
Within the palace of the King.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

Some day my earthly house will fall,



I cannot tell how soon 'twill be,  
But this I know, my All in All  
Has now a place in heaven for me.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

Some day, when fades the golden sun  
Beneath the rosy-tinted West,  
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"  
And I shall enter into rest.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.

Some day- till then I'll watch and wait,  
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,  
That when my Saviour ope's the gate,  
My soul to Him may take its flight.  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story saved by grace.