

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN



They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:5-6

Oswald Chambers says that in proclaiming the word to people we get pretty much the response we aim for. If you have the right technique and you aim at getting people to cry you can make them cry.

They will cry, *but their lives haven't changed.*

If you want some emotion, if you want to get them running down to the altar rail, you can aim for this and get it ...

... you've got the emotional response *but their lives haven't changed.*

On the other hand, if we aim at getting a genuine re-pentance, a genuine change of heart, we may not reach as many, but those who are tender to the Spirit of God will repent and change their lives.

This principle applies not only to preaching to a congregation or to a large evangelistic gathering, it applies to our day-in-and- day-out dealing with people in the name of the Lord---one-to-one.

When we play with people's emotions we get emotions but no real change takes place in their lives ... it's no different than crying at the movies.

So, we have to speak ... not only to people's emotions, but to the mind, the heart, and the will.

Otherwise we could work our-selves up into a good-cry every Sunday and still never change.

But while it may be true that weeping in church is often no more significant than weeping at the movies,
there is a kind of weeping that not only changes us, it moves God.

- There is a kind of weeping that breaks our pride and prepares the way for the coming of the Spirit of God into our lives afresh.
- There is a kind of weeping that causes us to forget all about ourselves and drives us to cry out to God, to visit Zion and heal it.

This weeping is desperately needed in the Body of Christ at this hour. It's a gift straight from the Lamb of God (who did his share of weeping and still does). And we need to be careful not to stifle or hinder this kind of weeping when it comes to us.

How many times we've heard people say, *"I can't come to fellowship right now because I'm afraid that if I did all I'd do is sit there and weep."*

... So come and weep.

Or someone says, *"I'm afraid to really open my heart to God because every time I open my heart to God I start to cry."*

...Then open your heart and cry.

"I can't even pray these days," says another. *"Every time I start to pray the tears come,"*

... Is that a sin? Let them come.

Don't stifle this precious gift.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4



...Blessed are those who mourn.

Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Luke 7:11-16

On the human side, the key to this resurrection sign of the kingdom is the weeping woman.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak

- Life comes to the dead man.
- Revival comes to Israel....

- New life comes to the church through the tears of this weeping woman. She was a sign of the Lord himself. She was weeping over her dead son ... like Jesus was weeping over his dead nation.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Most of us, however, at the present moment do not have this gift of weeping, or if we have it we've been stifling it. But if Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn,"

... this kind of mourning must be something worth pursuing.

1. It's worth pursuing the weeping of true repentance.

How shall we ever know the peace of God until we allow our hearts to really break open to God in true repentance? And when the repentance comes, how can we not weep?

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he canceled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Luke 7:36-48

Notice that in this entire episode this woman doesn't utter a single word. All she does is weep as she kisses Jesus' feet and anoints them with ointment. From her broken heart flow two pure streams.



**Pure repentance.
Pure love.**

If you say, *"But I was never the kind of sinner that woman was. I don't have as much to repent of"*, it's only because your heart hasn't broken yet.

When our hearts break in repentance for what we are, for our hardness, our pride, our hypocrisy, we'll be right there at that woman's side weeping and somehow showing our appreciation, our love, to the One who took our sin upon himself.

"In those days and in that time, says the Lord, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come; and they shall seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, 'Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten.'" Jeremiah 50:4-5

The revival of Israel and the revival of the Church begin with the weeping of repentance.

May God give us such weeping.

May God pour out upon us such a spirit of repentance that he may raise us from the dead and make us alive in him.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

2. It's worth pursuing the weeping of vision.

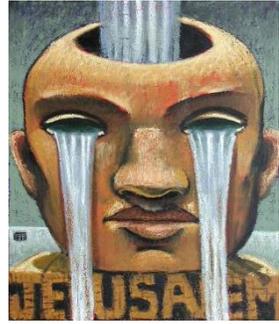
People who are given vision to see some glimpse of God as he really is and to see the Body of Christ as it really is, are so overwhelmed with the discrepancy between the goodness of God and our hardness of heart in the Body.... that they are driven to weeping.

Jesus is riding the donkey down into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday ... the multitudes have been shouting his praises. *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"* Jesus gets to a certain point, looks out over the city, and starts weeping. As if his heart is going to break, saying,

"Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Luke 19-42-44

Jesus sees the Father's hand stretched out in love toward the city, and the people pushing that hand away to go on about their own affairs. And as he weeps Jesus is joining his heart to the heart of the father who also weeps for Jerusalem.



Which brings us to the most important weeping of all....

...the weeping of intercession.

3. It's worth pursuing the weeping of intercession.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

How do we sow in tears?

By praying for those who have drifted from the Father's house.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed,

- the seed of prayer,

- the seed of intercession,



... shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me.

Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”

“Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?”

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded;

I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

This kind of brokenhearted weeping for the Body, for the suffering race, is not natural to us.

It has to come from God as the Spirit of the Lord moves our hearts to intercede.

And every time this spirit of mourning intercession begins to move upon the Body of Christ the outcome is some kind of revival.

The widow wept...her son was raised from the dead.

Jesus wept ...Lazarus was raised from the dead.

John wept ... the Lamb took the scroll and began to break the seven seals.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

There is a spirit of weeping which comes straight from heaven, which the Father has been trying to give us for a long time.

- We've been afraid to receive it.
- We've been afraid to let it take hold of our hearts.

If this spirit of weeping should begin to move upon us, may God help us not to be afraid or embarrassed or self-conscious.

This weeping is the gift of God that will open our hearts to heaven and will, in a wonderful way, open heaven to our prayers and to those for whom we pray.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."



Message: REB 1981

Featured Artists: Grace Carol Bomer at gracecarolbomer.com and Embracing his Foot and Weep O Jerusalem by Wayne Forte at wayneforte.com

Prayer- Lord touch our hearts, soften them so we do mourn what needs to be mourned. May our tears go beyond the surface and break our pride, our hypocrisy, and our hardness of heart. We mourn because despite being touched by your tender love, your kind acceptance, and your total forgiveness... we fail again and again to love you and others in this same way. Break our hearts open because this is where we meet you, precious Saviour, this is where we find your beloved comfort. And Lord may we sow tears of care, love, and mercy as we pray for and truly intercede for those around us, for those caught in the snare of this twisted world, and for light to overcome their darkness. May these tears bear the precious seed of your redemptive power and bring a harvest of joy to them, to us, to you, and to many. Amen

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

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