

REJOICING, YET SORROWFUL



In our fellowships there is great rejoicing.

Rejoicing in our worship.

Rejoicing in our prayers.

Rejoicing in the victory of the cross.

Why should we not rejoice?

But do we know how to be sorrowful along with our rejoicing?

Sorrowful for the suffering that surrounds us on all sides.

Sorrowful for the devastation of fire and flood, famine, plague and war scarring the earth.

Sorrowful for the hardness of our own hearts.

Jesus rejoiced that the Father revealed the kingdom to those babes---his disciples.

Yet he wept over Jerusalem.

Jesus knew with joy that he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead.

Yet he wept before the tomb.



Along with joy there was always an undertone of deep sorrow as our Lord walked the earth.

***Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.***

***But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.***

Isaiah 53

In this world, joy in the Lord is always tempered with sorrow.

Sorrow over Jerusalem.

Sorrow over our own spiritual blindness.

Sorrow over the pain and sadness of this troubled world.



The joy of the Lord is our strength.



The sorrow of the Lord is our wisdom.



Our Lord's joy and his sorrow are held together by his love.

So it should be with us.

Even while we rejoice in the Lord, we cry out with all who suffer; beseeching the Lord to come down and heal and restore.

***How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?***

***Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.***

Psalm 13



Prayer: Yes, Lord may we rejoice, truly rejoice in who you are, in your goodness, your majesty, your mercy, your kindness, and in your masterful creation...but in the midst of our happiness, our blessings, and our rejoicing may we never forget the sorrow that this world is covered in. May we never forget that you mourn as well, that you weep, and that all suffering breaks your heart. So, we join our hearts with those who suffer, who mourn, who are broken in every way. Lord, remember them. Show your face and mercy to them. Carry them through their troubles. Be with them in their sorrow. Rescue them, heal them, restore them. Carry them into your heavenly realm when their time has come. And may this weary world rejoice together because you do carry our sorrows and you do heal us with your stripes...and your very tears bring us the glories of heaven. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

Message: Richard E. Bieber July 2021

Featured Artist: All art via permission and grace of Sanctified Art...various artists featured in order. Joy Comes in the Mourning by Carmelle Beuagelin, Jesus Wept by Hannah Garrity, Tear Open the Heavens and Raise Your Heads by Lauren Wright Pittman, Make Your Face Shine (A weary World Rejoices) by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, and Rend Your Hearts by Lauren Wright Pittman.

Here is a link to an advent video "[Sing it True](#)" part of a series on How a Weary World Rejoices put together by Sanctified Art.

Maranatha Mirror Messages

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