

THE MINISTRY OF TEARS

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Pastor G. Richardson - January 6, 2010

Hos 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

Hos 12:4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him *in* Bethel, and there he spake with us;

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Ecc 7:2 *It is* better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that *is* the end of all men; and the living will lay *it* to his heart.

Ecc 7:3 Sorrow *is* better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Ecc 7:4 The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.

Ecc 7:5 *It is* better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Psa 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Psa 126:2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad.

Psa 126:4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

Psa 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Psa 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

The Subject of Tears

1. In speaking of the subject of tears we are dealing tonight with a subject that is familiar to every one of us. From infancy to old age the record of every man's life is written in letters of tears.
2. When we talk about this subject, immediately we recall the experiences of our own past life.
3. **In the Bible too**, has a great deal to say about the subject of tears. In the Word of God we see infants weeping, strong men weeping and even the tears of our Saviour are mentioned on several occasions.

Joh 11:35 Jesus wept.

4. **The first time tears** are mentioned in the Bible is in the book of 2 Kings 20:5. Here is the record of a king weeping. Hezekiah is sick unto death and has just been informed by the Prophet he is going to die. Turning his face to the wall, he sobs out to the Lord and pleads for his life.

2Ki 20:4 And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

2Ki 20:5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, **I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee:** on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

2Ki 20:6 And I will add unto thy days **fifteen years**; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

5. **The last mention of tears** in the Bible is in Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." God is a great tear-drier. He dried the tears of a king in Israel's day when he cried to the Lord, and at the end of time He will again wipe away ALL TEARS. Like a tender Father wiping away the tears of his wayward children.
6. **There is not a living human being** who does not need this drying of tears. All of you that are listening to this message at some time or another have shed many tears.

7. **The shedding of tears is unique method of expressing emotions**, such as sorrow, pain, despair and disappointment. Man is the only created being who can laugh and who can shed tears in the sense of expressing emotion of your soul.

JUST WHAT IS A TEAR?

1. **The Chemist** will tell you that a tear is a solution of sodium chloride and calcium and some other chemicals in a watery fluid.
2. **The Physiologists** tell us that a tear is the lubricating fluid of the eyeball, secreted by the Lak-re-mall glands and poured over the eyes to keep them from becoming dry.
3. **The Stoic**: (Greek school of philosophy;)One who is seemingly indifferent to or unaffected by joy, grief, pleasure, or pain. Says that a tear is a sign of human weakness and cowardice, and that real humans do not shed tears.
4. **The Epicurean** (Devoted to the pursuit of sensual pleasure, especially to the enjoyment of good food and comfort.) says that tears are useless and we should eat and drink and be merry for tomorrow we die, and there will be time enough weep.
5. **The real Meaning**: A tear is a cleansing of the soul. It I deepest longing of the human heart in a chemical solution. It is the concentrated extract; the final precipitate (per-cip-a tate) of the deepest feelings of the heat, filtered through the strainer of trials and testing. True tears are not camouflage but the Picture of the soul on the canvas of the emotions. They are the portraits of our deepest aspirations.

TEARS HAVE A WAY OF WASHING THE SOUL CLEAN

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:

1. **David in Repentance:**

Psa 6:4 Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Psa 6:5 For in death *there is* no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Psa 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

a. **It is a godly sorrow that brings a person in contact with God through repentance.**

Luk 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Psa 30:5 For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Isa 61:4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

THE FOUNDATION COMPLETED

Ezr 3:10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Ezr 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is* good, for his mercy *endureth* for ever

toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Ezr 3:12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, **wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:**

Ezr 3:13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Psa 46:1 **To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psa 46:3 *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Psa 46:4 *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psa 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, *and that* right early.

Act 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Act 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Act 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

Act 8:8 And there was great joy in that city.