

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

by Richard E. Bieber

The sermon emphasizes the importance of weeping, repentance, and intercession in order to experience genuine change and revival.

Scripture: Psalm 126:5, Jeremiah 8:18, Jeremiah 50:4, Matthew 5:4, Luke 7:11, Luke 19:41

Topics: "Repentance", "Spiritual Renewal"

Description

Richard E. Bieber preaches on the importance of genuine repentance and the need to move beyond emotional responses to true heart transformation. He emphasizes the significance of weeping in a way that breaks pride, prepares for spiritual renewal, and moves God's heart. Drawing from Psalms 126:5-6, Matthew 5:4, and Luke 7:11-16, he illustrates how weeping can lead to revival, new life, and comfort. The sermon highlights the value of weeping for true repentance, vision, and intercession, showing how such tears can bring about transformation and revival in individuals and communities.

Transcript

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

Psalm 126:5-6 KJV

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 repentance, 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 ourselves 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 city called Nain,
and his disciples-and a great crowd went with
him. As he drew near to the gate of the city,
behold, a man who had died was being carried
out, the only son of his mother, and she was
a widow; and a large crowd from the city was
with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had
compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

And he came 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 he 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 took his place at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was 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 it, 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, "What is it, Teacher?" "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both.

Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered,

"The one, I suppose to whom he forgave more."

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,

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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 even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you 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 grief is beyond healing,
my heart is sick within me.

Hark, 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 graven 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 of 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?

O 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.

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