Soul-Mollifying

by Thomas Brooks

True faith is a heart-breaking, heart-melting faith that wounds the soul through the sight of Christ's wounds.

Scripture: Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 53:5, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 26:75, Luke 7:47, John 19:37, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Hebrews 12:2, 1 Peter 2:24
Topics: "Faith", "Mourning for Sin"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that saving faith is inherently soul-softening and soul-mollifying, as it compels believers to confront the suffering of Christ. He illustrates how true faith leads to deep mourning and lamentation over sin, as seen in the examples of Peter and Mary Magdalene. The sight of Christ's wounds and the understanding of His sacrificial love for humanity profoundly impacts the believer's heart, breaking down hardness and igniting a heartfelt response. Brooks argues that nothing can effectively soften a sinner's heart like the realization of Christ's suffering for their transgressions. Ultimately, he concludes that genuine faith is characterized by a heart that breaks and melts in response to the love and sacrifice of Christ.

Transcript

Saving faith is soul-softening, it is soul-mollifying.

Peter believes soundly--and weeps bitterly. Mary

Magdalene believes much--and weeps much.

Faith sets . . .

a wounded Christ,

a bruised Christ,

a despised Christ,

a pierced Christ,

a bleeding Christ

--before the soul, and this makes the soul sit down

and weep bitterly: "They will look on Me whom they

have pierced and mourn for Him (all gospel-mourning

flows from believing), as for an only son. They will

grieve bitterly for Him as for a firstborn son who has

died." Zechariah 12:10.

Oh! the sight of those wounds which their sins have

made--will wound their hearts through and through!

It will make them lament over Christ with a bitter

lamentation. Ah! nothing will kindly, sweetly, and

effectually break the hardened heart of a sinner,

but faith's beholding the blood of Christ trickling

down His sides!

That Christ should love man when he was most unlovely;

that man's extreme misery should but inflame Christ's

affections of love and mercy--this melts the believing soul.

That Christ should leave the eternal bosom of His Father;

that He who was equal with God--should come in the form

of a servant; that He who was clothed with glory--should

be wrapped in rags; that He whom the heaven of heavens

could not contain--should be cradled in a manger; that from

His cradle to His cross--His whole life should be a life of

sorrows and sufferings; that the Judge of all flesh should

be condemned; that the Lord of life should be put to death;

that He who was His Father's joy--should in anguish of spirit

cry out, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' that

that head which was crowned with honor--should be crowned

with thorns; that those eyes which were as a flame of fire,

which were clearer than the sun--should be closed up by the

darkness of death; that those ears which were used to hear

nothing but hallelujahs--should hear nothing but blasphemies;

that that face which was white and ruddy--should be spit upon

by the beastly Jews; that that tongue which spoke as never

any man spoke, yes, as never any angel spoke--should be

accused of blasphemy; that those hands which swayed both

a golden scepter and an iron rod, and those feet which were

as fine brass--should be nailed to the cross--and all this for

man's transgression, for man's rebellion! Oh! the sight of

these things, the believing of these things, makes a

gracious soul to break and bleed, to sigh and groan,

to mourn and lament!

True faith is a heart-breaking, a heart-melting faith.