



Tears in your Bottle

The bible has much to say about tears and weeping. None of them are without cause or effect. There can be many reasons for one to shed tears. A variety of emotions can be contained in each one. The tears we shed are a result of our emotions. Some are tightly knitted to our spiritual life. God is keeping track of those tears. In today's world of data storage, our God who even tracks the number of hairs on your head, can also track the tears you have shed for the kingdom.

We cry for a varied of reasons. There are tears of rage, fear, and even laughter. We may be crying from a sense of intense loss or great hope and joy. Even now many weep for our country as they watch leaders and masses make ungodly decisions? Has a spouse betrayed you. I have a close friend who even now is watching her brother enter into eternity.

The point is, there are so many causes and reasons for us to weep. Have you let the Lord remove your stoney heart and replace it with a heart of flesh. This may be the only time the flesh profits. It must be now because there will be no more tears in God's kingdom.

God shares in all our tears. His heart is full when He sees His children rejoicing in His creation and sharing with others the love that inhabits His heart. He wants us to have pleasure and enjoy the life He has given. He also wants us to share the sentiments of His own heart. Yes, even the pain that He feels at seeing His beloved creation turn from Him and His desire for each one. Will you share in that also?

Every christian is a representative of the old testament ministers (the tribe of Levi). He has said we are kings and priests of our God. That being said, what does He say are the duties of His priest? Joel 2:17 admonishes the priests of the Lord to weep between the porch and the altar; the porch perhaps being where people now stand; the altar where they come humbly before their creator. The path between the two may be long or short.

I think of Robert Frost's poem about the road not taken. When it comes to the spiritual realm, the decision is even starker. There are only two roads. The one that seems to be wide, welcoming and broad will lead to death. The other appears narrow and hard to travel but will lead to life. God sets before us good and evil; right and wrong; darkness and light. The choice is up to each individual.

Too many people think their lives are ultimately meaningless and all will be lost at their death. Memories and all they hold dear will be like tears in the rain. That is not the case. Even the apostle Paul admits in 1 Cor. 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." Our hope is fully vested in the vastness of eternity. No sin becomes too sinful to ask for forgiveness. In the same vein, none are good enough to make it on their own. There is a price we can never pay for a gift we don't deserve.

Intercession for His will is the ultimate calling. This is for all of us regardless of other works. We begin with the tears of repentance that we too have fallen short of His glory. Be careful to keep your heart settled in Him as you extend it out to others. The shortcomings of others are frequently detected easier than our own. We must be as Christ in our actions. We imitate until He be fully formed in us.

Proselytize? If a person really believes there is a heaven and a hell, a final judgment of one's life, how much does one have to hate another to not try to convince them also. Our loved ones who refused to repent won't be with us; they will instead suffer a terrible punishment. There will be different degrees to be sure, just as there are differing acts of evil and rebellion. At the very least they will be suffering eternal separation from the One who created them. Separation from One who willingly purchased a ticket for all who would get on board.

When we partake in sin, we often think we have "gotten away with it". It's never true. God always knows and His books never lie. It is now time to measure all we do with an eye towards the rewards and punishments of eternity. Too many things affect people in a fatal way and the little foxes spoil the vine. (Song of Solomon 2:15)

Even now the enemy of our God is enticing people with the lie he spoke in the garden. "You shall be as god." There is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5) The devil has no new material. Our only true salvation is always and only Jesus Christ. There are not many paths to God!

We are told that in the end a "strong delusion" will come upon those who have not embraced the love of the truth. The loss will be their's, not ours. Interestingly enough, our Lord has plans to deal with this. In some ways, this may be the greatest miracle that we will experience. Just as He will give us eternal bodies, He will rid us of all past grievances and sorrows.

The hebrew word "machah" is our word for "blot". It means to destroy, wipe or abolish. Jesus has paid the price to machah out our sins and transgressions. He has allowed us to decide our "future tears". Will they be tears of a victorious resurrection or the eternal tears of anguish? We will all find out at His judgment seat.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:4) Will you share in the glorious morning He has prepared for those who love Him. Will you endure the losses suffered in this life for the life to come? He is calling. He is waiting. But His Spirit will not always strive with man. (Gen. 6:3).

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5