

30. Nov - Sept. 20, 70 P.M. WABJ

TEARS THAT BLESS

Matt. 5:4

We continue the Sermon on the Mount. You will remember the Preacher is Jesus. The Pulpit is the Mountain. And the hearers were his Disciples. You may remember we laid the foundation as to the various ideas and thinking of different people on The Sermon on the Mount. I suggested "social Gospel", a high moral standard - that it was contrast between the teachings of Christ and the teachings of Moses. That it was a collection.

And we sought to impress upon your mind the idea that this was a sermon to the kingdom man. And that Jesus was clearly talking to his disciples and saying "congratulations, blessed are you".

We discuss Verse 3 - the Poor in Spirit. And we discover that these were the ones who had a consciousness of their own condition, spiritual poverty, in the sight of God. And we also discovered that these were the ones who were conscious of their total dependence upon the heavenly Father. They had nothing in their hand to offer - but simply to cling to the cross. These were declared the poor in spirit.

~~Verse 4~~ We come now to the next progressive step. We have expressed the idea of the poor - not because they had no possessions or riches. But because they apprehended the message of the Kingdom. Because they realized they had nothing. They did not stand in relationship before God. As if they had goodness or any merit, but they were conscious of spiritual poverty. And he is willing to trust God. So this is the first condition.

This really is the first step of any man getting into the Kingdom - to recognize his condition and his acceptance. If you have nothing, then you are

willing to accept something. You feel your need of it - don't you. Then Jesus said you are to be congratulated.

V. 4
Next he turns to those who are mourning and who are sorrowful. They too are to be congratulated.

They shall obtain comfort and strength.

A man who comes to spiritual poverty must first see his sin as no light thing. And so long as sin is in the world, and sin is in him, he is sorrowful.

The kingdom man then is to be happy because he is a mourner. Now this may not make sense.

But here is a congratulations - you are to be happy-ized. Something like that. In other words you are really in the pathway upon which you can be congratulated. Because you mourn.

You see the progressiveness in the kingdom man. He has this poverty. A genuine sorrow for sin begins to develop in those whose minds receive spiritual light. True penitence will begin to show itself.

If sin is felt to be a crooked and perverse thing, and a man realizes his unfaithfulness toward God - he is conscious that a great mistake has been made. And he needs to make it right.

Now such a state of mind cannot remain unnoticed by God.

God will meet the penitent soul. The same divine utterance to which he said, the poor man should have the kingdom of Heaven. The mourner shall be comforted.

When he comes to the place of this sorrow, there will be substantial comfort in store. The morally weary, the heavy laden, they shall be comforted.

What a strange paradox. It just contradicts the accepted views of our day. We think that a man is to be congratulated because his face is wet with tears - no, we do not think that this is a time to congratulate. Because he carries a heavy burden or perhaps, he has an aching heart.

The world would declare, blessed are the tearist - but Jesus pronouncing a blessing upon the mourners. I read the story of a missionary who went to the lepers. And for 13 years he served, and he lived among them. He was a teacher, preacher, companion, and friend. At last the dread disease layed hold of him. At first, he was not aware of it. But one morning - he chanced to spill some boiling water on his foot. How painful, you would say, but he did not suffer the slightest pain. It was this experience that told him of his doom. That death was creeping up on him.

But there is a sadder loss than just a physical loss, as the messenger of death. That is the loss of our spiritual sensitiveness.

Paul talks about this as getting to the place where he is past feeling. You know how it happens. Individuals committed a certain sin. But their conscience did not pain them. So you continue on. Perhaps the first night your pillow was not comfortable when you tried to sleep. And you continued on in your sin and you repeated - until all the pain left. You perhaps heard a sermon that would have one time moved you or broken your heart. But today you can listen and you are unmoved. You are not disturbed.

There are wayward children - sons and daughters - who will listen to the appeal of a parent. The father or mother may make a tender appeal and they may

even shed tears, but the boy or the girl may go on their way.

Now this is what the world thinks - it thinks that this statement is ridiculous. And tries to shun mourning. The whole organization of the world is based upon the supposition that this is something everyone should avoid. In fact, the world says, forget your troubles - turn your back on them. And everything you cannot taste, leave. Now of course things are bad enough without us going about looking for trouble. And the world says be as happy as you can. Seek after pleasure, money, etc. There is something superficial about what the world says. Because through the T. V. or through entertainment, you are going to forget - you are not supposed to mourn. But Jesus said, blessed are those that mourn.

Mom said - wall - pick up nail throw down - it - things pass away? Head on wrong end (for other side of head) - The fellow said - The nails with the heads on wrong end are on the other side of

Now Jesus did not say, blessed are the miserable. You know, there are some people like this. They have enough religion - they are like a man's headache. He can't afford to give his head up, but it hurts him too much to keep it. Now there are lots of people who have just enough religion to kind of hurt a little, but they never come to the place of repentance.

Now there is real progress here in this sermon. Man's chief goods you see, and the aim of sorrow is, that you will be comforted. Not all types of mourners are going to be blessed.

This world has all kinds of mourners. Mourners who mourn about wrecked homes, wrecked hearts.

I

First let us see what is the thing that produces tears.
1. First tears are produced by bereavement. This is a human element. Now Jesus is talking about various experiences. He is talking about our poverty, he is talking about our tears, our hunger, our persecutions.

Now there are some people who think that God cannot mean all that he says.
And that he offers here in the way of assurance.

But this sermon is not teaching that every sorrow carries a blessedness.
But no mourners should really turn away from these words. For you see that this is Gospel. And whatever the awful sorrow may be that you have in your heart at this time, there is a possibility of comfort for you. Even though at this moment you are not professed as a Christian. And your grief may be leading you to the source to everlasting life. Sometimes the blow is unexpected and sudden. We make so light of our farewells. But it is the way with our loved ones. We may see their face again, and we may not.

It may be as Rachel who weeped for her children and refuses to be comforted.

Mary and Martha wept - their hearts were breaking at their brother's grave.
For them, there was comfort.

Now that comfort did not come by sweet words or by hanging crepe out. But God had a way of opening their hearts, that they might know that God would meet all of their needs.

2 - Second, disappointment of our hopes. This is another thing that produces tears.
We enter life - we have great hope. We rush on and soon everything seems to be blurred. There are thick clouds that gather over us. Sometimes these frustrations of hope turn men to God.

3 Third, our disposition sometimes produces tears. There are people who think and brood over things that may never happen, and yet they produce tears for them.

4 Fourth, temporal distresses produces tears. These little spots in our lives that rise up to a temporal world cause us to be grieved.

5 Fifth, tears often come in sorrow for sin. Now we had better mourn for sin than for its consequences. But often sin brings tears to the lives of people.

II. Tears That Do Not Count.

✓ First, the tears of a pessimist. These are people who are always wretched. They search for dispair like bees searching for honey. They feel that they have a perfect right to be miserable all the time. Now Paul says, finally brethren, think on these things - the honest, the pure, of good report, etc.

2 Second, those who mourn over some selfish loss. They have a foolish ambition.

3 Third, those who have lost some loved one. Quite often their tears never gain comfort. There has been a death and the person following that may become bitter and may become rebellious and hard to God and to the church.

4 Fourth, tears of remorse. Now mourning has not always come because of our hatred of sin. We hate the effects of it. I suppose in our jails there are people who mourn, but that does not mean that they will get comfort.

Jesus tells us that Hell is full of mourners. People who weep and wail - that their tears do not bring any blessing.

III. Tears That Count.

I think we should next turn to this thought.

1- First, you share your neighbors' pain. This is something that we often side-
step. We say it is not my business - I have enough troubles of my own. I don't
have time for the sorrow of my neighbor. I think when we share as the Good Samaritan
we will find comfort.

2- Second, tears over our personal sins. This to me is a truth. This is the
work of the spirit of God. When we look up at the cross, it simply breaks our
heart. It is better for us to mourn of our personal sins, than when we are just
reaping the bitter penalty of our mistakes. It is easy for us to be regretful.
And say, oh, that I had not done this. Would that I had been thought, or had another
chance. But this is not the kind of sorrow in mourning. The sorrow for sin is
deeper than that. It is purer than that. It goes further.

We must come to the summit and weep that (we are unworthy). That we are (helpless).
Isaiah said, woe is me - for I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips. No man can
be satisfied after he looks on the holiness and goodness of God.

If you have no sense of (sorrow for sin), you can never know that you need
repentance. This is God's way. You must go down the valley of grief before you
can find a spiritual life, and climb to Glory. We must know the broken heart.
That everything proves that we are (inadequate). The Bible declares it. And we must
confront God with utter helplessness and hopelessness. And I must mourn about the
fact that I like that.

Any man who is a Christian and in the Kingdom has felt this grief in his own
heart. He is aware that evil principles are at work within him. And knows that
he has had to conquer a bad temper or unkindness, or jealousy, or envious feelings
and thoughts, hatred.

3 Third, there is anguish over the sins of others. I think these tears count also. When Christians are interested in others, and you see things in the newspaper - society, and you mourn because of the sins of others. Sometimes we read about wars and rumors of wars, and it really never hits us that there are present souls that are face to face with life and death in these battles.

John Knox was once so over-come in his thoughts for others, that he simply prayed - give me Scotland or I die. There was a travail in his heart over the sins of the people in his country.

And this is the thing that moved Isaiah when he was troubled about his own sins. A man of unclean lips. Then he realized that other men were in sin. And he asked the Lord what he could do, and he offered himself to go and carry the message to them. Hence, we must recognize that the world needs the knowledge of His Kingdom now. Moses, said, blot me out of the book. He was interested in the sins of the other people.

4 Fourth, the imperfect state of the church. I think this is another reason why we might well shed tears and mourn.

You weep at the movies & sleep in church!

Think of the millions of people, complacent people, who put down on a census that they are Christian.

If they could see themselves as they really are, do they really have a connection. Does their conduct show it. They would be shocked to see how really stupid they are.

We should shed tears. Because they do not uphold church and the living God.

Isaiah confronted this in their worship - lustful things were creeping in. Their hearts were not with it. Their sacrifices were so common and meaningless. You

Peter wept, but he wept his way back to the cross.

David sinned, but the difference was that at last his mourning let him have mercy upon me oh God according to thy loving kindness - according to the multitude of thy tender mercies - blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart oh God. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, his heart is broken over sin.

IV *Remember*
IV. Tears That Were Shed Before Yours

1 — First, remember when hope has past. My friends it is encouraging to know that people have shed tears of this nature before you.

Esau's tears testify that he was sorry, he lost his birthright. Yet he was a party to it.

The woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears - yet was saved by her faith, and she left in tears.

2 — Second, tears have been shed in Hell. When we think about the violent grief, the wailing, gnashing of teeth - it indicates to us that the rich man in Hell pleaded tears for his brother.

But you know Jesus' sermon is not the attitude of a paid mourner. One who is paid to display grief at a grave service. There is something deeper than this. And Jesus, you remember, shed tears. The prophets tell us that he was a man of sorrow. We are told in John 11:35 - at the grave of Lazarus, he wept. Now he was not weeping because his friend was dead - because he had gone to raise him from the dead. He knew that in a moment, Lazarus was going to live again. And of course he saw that Lazarus was going to have to come back and face sin which had introduced death, and

upset life for him, because of that. He also wept over Jerusalem as he looked at the city. Luke 19:41, 44. Now he didn't weep because of something light. Because the city was facing damnation - they were not true followers. They said, let us eat, drink, and be merry. That's our motto.

V. Tears That Bless.

Now Jesus says congratulations, because of your poverty. You feel a spiritual need. Now he says, you have full recognition of your spiritual condition. And sin as it is caused - causes sorrow. Sorrow because of sin. You are not satisfied.

We are going to face ourselves. We are not going to run like Adam behind the bushes. But here is deep inward grief, sense of guilt.

This man is crying in his heart. Now this is the true church in the world about us. And this is the thing that he is speaking of.

/ - First, in the present time. I think this comfort applies to the here and now. We think first of all of those tears that we are shedding today. They are based on spiritual poverty.

We have learned that we are hopeless and helpless. And our hearts are empty. And we have felt that stroke and it has brought reconciliation with God. It ends in pardon, for I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips. Somebody would say why does Isaiah take things so hard. Why does he not throw this thing off and forget it.

I suppose a lot of people tonight would look at the Apostle Paul, who said, oh, wretched man that I am - who shall deliver me. The world would say "poor fellow".

He is a little bit too sensitive. Let us pity him.

We would not say that because the point is, that Paul was entering into a new Kingdom. Who shall deliver me, he cried desperately. And he gave the answer - God will and does, and he does it through Jesus Christ. Now this is the kind of mourning that brings about the simple consequences - which we need. What a burden Paul was carrying.

Now nowhere does God promise us, as Kingdom men, we are going to be immune from sorrow and pain. There will be disappointments, clouds, afflictions, and if we endure - joy cometh in the morning. Now self pity can bring us no comfort. Therefore, we cannot just bewail our misfortunes and say that we are oppressed people. It is like a child coming to his mother when there is trouble and he has been hurt. Now let me place a kiss on this, she says. And it is just like some magic, this seems to heal and to comfort whatever the difficulty may be.

I think the comfort that is in the present, that Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Never let them be disturbed."

I was amused at an Englishman who during the war had his house bombed and destroyed. All that was left was a hole in the ground. Well, he stood there, he said - I always did want a basement. Now I can jolly well build another house like I have always wanted. What a way of looking at a tragedy. This is the thing that helps people.

Dr. Edward Judson, in speaking of the life of his father, Adoniram Judson, at the dedication of the Judson Memorial Church in New York City said, suffering and success go together. If you are succeeding without suffering, it is because of others before you who have suffered.

And so, if we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him. It causes me to know that by his love and his power - his presence, the full assurance - I will send you another comforter. What did Jesus say, blessed are those that mourn, they shall be comforted. What hope does a man have who does not believe these things. What hope does a man have who is not a Christian.

Now we read the newspapers and we think about what people have counted upon. Escaping the United Nations, etc. What hope is there for these. The answer, there is none. There is no comfort from the world.

Before the Christian man that mourns, because of his sin, there is comfort. Yes, the man who mourns today - his heart will be full of joy.

Joseph wept when he heard of his father, the old man, who was yet alive.

Through Exiles in Babylon by the river, they were over joyed.

2 I think the second thing in the future - tears are going to bless. The holy men of old who were moved by God's spirit knew such grief. They beheld their transgressions and they were grieved. Rivers of water run down mine eyes because they keep not thy law. What sort of a man will you be in the future. I don't think you'll be a sorrowful, miserable man. I think he will be grateful for the joy that is set before him to endure. Having despised even the shame of the cross.

Jairus who is weeping over his daughter.

The widow, is following her son to the grave.

We think of those who wept at Bethesta.

We think of the mourning which took place in Gethsemane. The sorrow of Jesus. All sin and failure will be terminated for eternity.

Jeremiah said, you mourners in Zion, I say unto you - be comforted. When your ashes are turned to beauty and your heaviness to the garments of praise, and your anguish to the thrilling noises of Heaven - then will your consolation be deep, and high, and broad.

Did not the Prophet say, I have been sent to bind up the broken heart, to preach deliverance to the captives and set at liberty. So we see no tears in Heaven, no sorrow, no mourning. Because the Lord will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There shall be no more death. The sorrows of death shall be in the back ground, and shall be gone.

The Titanic with all of its passengers, just gone down, a man clinging to a bit of wreckage - in the midst of death he was hanging on. His hands were almost frozen, when another bit of wreckage floated by in the dim twilight of early morning. This man thinks of the need of that other man. And he calls to the young man, are you saved. No, came the answer. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. He lived to tell the story. But the man that opened the door of life to him lost his hold a moment later and was seen no more.

Both men found comfort in the future.

Conducted funeral service of a 93 yr. woman - Her sister stood by. The sister approaching 90 yr old - is left alone - following service, the warmth of her face had a glow - subtle voice she said, Blessedness of those who mourn! Your words, The Scripture, & Prayer, great comfort -

It is blessed to be comforted with the comfort which only God can give.

Presence of the comforter -- "I will send Him unto you".

Disciples crushed hope in Upper Room - sorrow turned to joy by the

Blessed Paraclete.

Need Mourners Bench. *Emphasize!*