

THE SUM OF ALL TEARS

(Fifty Days of Prayer for the Coming of the Holy Spirit; Message Five)

Revelation 5:4

WEEPING

"I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside." (Revelation 5:4)

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35)

"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll. But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside..." (Revelation 5:2-3)

A. The Bible is actually a book of tears

1. In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah weeps for a child...
2. In Jeremiah 9, the prophet weeps over coming judgment
3. In Psalm 137, the psalmist recalls how they wept by the rivers of Babylon
4. In Joel 2:12, 17, God invites his people to return to fasting, weeping and mourning
5. In Luke 6:21b, Jesus says, *"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."*
6. In Luke 7:36f, a sinful woman washes Jesus feet with her tears
7. In Mark 14:72, after betraying Jesus, Peter *"broke down and wept"*
8. In John 16:20 Jesus says to his disciples: *"You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."*
9. In John 20:11, Mary weeps outside of Jesus' tomb
10. In Acts 20:19, Paul admits he *"served the Lord with great humility and with tears"*

B. Weeping is a sign we are wholeheartedly involved in his kingdom

LONGING

"Record my lament, list my tears on your scroll are they not in your record." (Psalm 56:8)

A. Tears are a sign of longing, of unfulfilled hope

"Yes, your house is desolate...I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Luke 13:35; cf. 19:38)

"Weeping may last the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:5b)

"He who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy; He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:6)

B. Tears and prayer go together

1. Tears are prayers
2. Tears and prayer are a longing for more.

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

3. Tears and prayers are really a longing for Christ to be all in all

C. Every tear (prayer) will be seen as answered by Jesus

PRAYING

"Do not weep! See the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5)

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17)

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light." (Revelation 22:5)

"Christ is all. Christ is everything. Christ is in all!" (Colossians 3:11)

Christ is all! These three words are few, short and quickly spoken. But they contain great things. These three words are the essence and the substance of Christianity. These three words give to Christ his rightful place. (Bishop J.C. Ryle)

*You shouted, you cried, and you shattered my deafness;
You sparkled, you burned, and you shattered my darkness;
You shed forth your fragrance and I drew in my breathe;
And now I pant for you alone. (Augustine)*

*He who has Christ has everything.
He who has everything but has not Christ has nothing.
He who has everything plus Christ has nothing more than he who has
Christ alone. (Augustine)*

Jesus Christ is the sum of all tears!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, I am crucified with you. It is no longer I who live; it is you who live in me. The life I will live for the rest of my life will be by faith in you as the one who loved and gave himself for me.

Father, I have been purchased with the price of the blood of your son. I am not my own...any longer. It is all about him...so glorify him in my life this day.

For I have been crucified with him, buried with him raised with him, ascended with him, so Father, set my mind on the things above where he is at your right hand...I will not put my affection in anything his world offers. My life is forever hidden with Christ...where He is my Lord. In His name, Amen.