

The Weeping Savior

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and *wept* over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes” (Luke 19:41-42).

“And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had *compassion*, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20).

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with *groanings* which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

These verses depict so beautifully the heart of the weeping Savior, the compassion of the Father running to meet his wounded child, and the

groaning of the Holy Spirit crying out on behalf of a broken servant.

As you read this booklet, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the essence of God's nature to your heart. Then ask Him to lead you into a union with Him that surpasses your experience so you can pour out His heart to the world.

Chapter One

THE TEARS OF THE SAVIOR

The Word of God says in Luke 19:41 that Jesus “beheld the city, and wept over it.” “Beheld” implies that He gazed intently and longingly toward the people in the city.

Here was God Almighty, incarnated in a hypostatic union—the most unique Person in all the universe. Though He was God, He was Man; and though He was Man, He was God. He masked his deity so that He might reveal His humanity as a servant. What went through His mind as He beheld the city?

Remember, all things were created *by* Him, and *for* Him—not one thing was created apart from Him (Colossians 1:16). And here we see the Lord, in Luke 19:41, weeping over his own creation.

Parents, think of the children you have trained because you have been a faithful mom or dad. And when you see them go out and get

involved in iniquity, I'm sure you weep over them with a broken heart. Even after doing the best job you could as a parent, you may feel guilty, but you shouldn't—nobody is perfect.

What would happen if your children screamed at you and said, "I hate you!"? What if they rejected the values that you taught them from the Word of God? Many have done so, and many wonderful young people have not. But these are the kinds of things Jesus saw in His heart as He gazed upon Jerusalem.

As He looked over the city from the Mount of Olives, Jesus saw His chosen people who would not receive Him, and He thought, "I made them. I'm going to die for them. I've been so patient waiting for them, but this present generation will not receive Me." In John 1:10, the world that He made *knew Him not*. So now, He is weeping—weeping because He has so much to give, but it's not going to be received.

From His vantage point looking over the city, Jesus said, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!" He was saying, "If you only knew My forgiveness, My love, My mercy, My plan for you in this hour. *If you only knew!* But because you have rejected Me, these things are

hidden from your eyes.”

When we reject something that comes from God to bless us, it will be hidden from us. We must accept what is ours through grace; we must love ourselves, be forgiving toward ourselves, and receive what is ours from God for this hour.

Tears of Compassion

In John 11, Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, became sick and died. Although Mary and Martha summoned Jesus to come and heal their brother, He seemed to put them off, waiting two days to begin the journey to Bethany where He raised Lazarus from the dead.

In verse 32, when Mary saw Jesus, she rose up quickly and drawing near to Him, fell down at His feet, and said, “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.” Distraught, Mary misunderstood what the Lord was about to do.

When Jesus saw Mary weeping (and the Jews with her who were also weeping), verse 33 says He “*groaned* in the spirit, and was troubled.”

Then He said unto them, “Where have you laid him?” and they said, “Come and see.” And in verse 35, we have a beautiful but totally mis-

understood picture of the One who knows the beginning and the end:

“Jesus wept.”

First He groaned with unutterable sighs, then He wept. To groan means to sigh with inexpressible sounds from the heart. Can you picture it? And the Jews that heard it said, “Behold how he loved him!” (verse 36).

Once again, we see the weeping Savior—weeping because Mary did not really know Him; weeping because His own did not know Him the way they should have known Him.

Think of the tears Jesus Christ shed over being rejected and misunderstood. He sighed and groaned *because He had so much to give, and it was not received.*

“...And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me alway: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 11:41-42). Having said that, Jesus cried with a loud voice:

“Lazarus, come forth!”

Tears of Identification

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the

prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37). He was saying, "Oh, I wanted to gather you and protect you and cover you." Imagine what He must have been thinking while He wept—He saw the persecutions that would come upon the Jewish people through the centuries, and of all that Hitler would do to them during World War II.

It's one thing to cry. But it's another thing to cry with such intensity that you sigh out loud with inexpressible groanings. Oh, the love of the weeping Savior!

Isaiah 53:3-5 tells us that Jesus was "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him." Think of it. That's what He was like.

Yet, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we

have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Tears of Unconditional Love

The compassion of Jesus Christ is revealed in Romans 5:6. He knew He would die for the people who had no strength, who were helpless—and that means us. He would die for us while we were yet sinners, and while we were enemies (Romans 5:10).

Unconditional love goes all the way without any merit on our part. It meets us where we are. Unconditional love doesn’t demand a response; it is spontaneous. Unconditional love cannot be stopped by the conditions or reactions of people. God’s unconditional love is intense, eternal, immutable. And now He offers to shed that love abroad in our hearts by His Holy Spirit so we can be channels of love (Romans 5:5).

The weeping Savior will always love His own to the end (John 13:1).

Chapter Two
**THE COMPASSION OF
THE FATHER**

In the parable of the prodigal son, we can see another side of God's nature: "the running father." In Luke 15:20, the prodigal arose and came to his father. Picture it. He had done everything wrong, yet, he came home—broken, with a heart of repentance. He came home, and he was *right with God*. We can never overestimate the value of being right with God.

Keep the Temple Clean

"What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19). Our bodies are the habitation of the Holy Spirit. We do not belong to ourselves. Verse 20 says we have been "bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Paul said we are to glorify God in our bodies.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Dear friends, the Word of God makes it clear that people who practice these things shall *not* inherit the kingdom of God.

If I decide today I’m going to leave my wife and get remarried when there is no reason—she hasn’t committed adultery—I am told by God that I will not inherit the kingdom. *God* tells me that! (1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21). The Scriptures tell me that if I practice these sins, I will not inherit the kingdom of God. That means a pastor can preach to his congregation for years and still be a castaway.

You may say, “Pastor, don’t you believe in eternal security?”

Yes I do, but I believe that if I can do these things as a practice, then I was never saved; therefore, anything I did for God was done in a pre-salvation state.*

If I live in sin but I *am* saved (and only God could know that, because the indwelling Holy

Spirit would be quenched and unable to witness with my spirit), then I will go through a process of chastisement. The purpose of His chastening is to bring me to repentance. If after several degrees of chastisement I still refuse to respond and never truly repent, then God will take me home early.

The fear of the LORD is to depart from evil, according to Proverbs 8:13. True repentance means a change of mind and a change of will toward the truth. It means to turn around and go God's way (see Matthew 21:28-32). It is vital that we understand this.

As gracious and loving as the Word of God is, God's people need to lift up its standards of righteousness. We need to understand what the Bible means when it says, "If thy hand offend thee, cut it off... If thy foot offend thee, cut it off... If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out" (Mark 9:43, 45, 47). It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one hand, one foot, or one eye than to enter into hell with two hands, two feet, and two eyes. God pronounces judgment and hell on the sins mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21.

"But Pastor, this doesn't sound like eternal security to me."

Yes, it is eternal security because Luke 8:18 says, "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." The key here is that they seem to have eternal life. In other words, they are living in a presalvation state. They have given mental assent to the Gospel; they have had an emotional response, but they have never been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. That's why they are able to live in sin without the conviction that it is wrong.

Let Not Sin Reign

The Word of God says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12-13). The members of our bodies must be yielded as instruments of righteousness.

Verse 14 goes on to say, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Therefore, do not let sin have dominion over you. "Shall we continue

in sin, that grace may abound?” (Romans 6:1b). The apostle Paul’s bold declaration was “God forbid!”

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16). We serve one of two kingdoms. If we yield our bodies as servants unto sin, we are servants of Satan’s kingdom. But if we yield our bodies as servants of righteousness, then our bodies are submitted to God’s righteousness.

Finally, Romans 6:17-18 says, “But God be thanked, that ye were servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

I want to address those who are practicing fornication, adultery, and who are effeminate, homosexuals, and lesbians. I must tell you that no matter what you’ve done with the church, you will not go to heaven when you die, because the Bible says you will not—and the Bible still teaches eternal security.

As a servant of God to the people in my congregation, I must tell the truth. *The fear of the Lord*

is to depart from evil. But it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31).

Kissed by Unconditional Love

When the prodigal son came home, his father saw him afar off, and “had compassion, and ran [and kept running], and fell on his neck, and kissed him [he kept on kissing him]” (Luke 15:20).

God the Father will run after anyone who will come home. I don’t care what you’ve done or how bad it is; if you will just say, “I’m going to my Father, I’ve sinned against heaven,” then the Father will run to you and kiss you with His unconditional love. When the prodigal came to his father, he said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight.” But the father interrupted his confession and wouldn’t let him continue; the debt for his sins was already paid.

Think of it friends. The young man came home as a prodigal—broken and contrite. He came home to be as a hired servant. But the father ran, fell on his neck, and kept kissing him. Can you picture the father kissing his son’s neck over and over? Can you imagine how the son felt? Perhaps he thought, “There’s no condemnation. No guilt! All I have to do is receive my father’s love.” The father said, “Get the ring. Get

the robe. Get the fatted calf. We're going to have a party! My son was lost, but now he's found."

Don't ever misunderstand your heavenly Father's heart.

Sammy's Story

Occasionally, I have told the story about Sammy, a man from Africa who came to America to study the Bible in a Methodist college. He had a beautiful relationship with God the Father, but the students at the college made fun of him.

Sammy was a simple man who had a simple prayer life. He would say, "Father, Sammy needs a blessing today. That's all this time." "Father, Sammy wants You to save these two students. That's all this time." "Father, Sammy is sick. Sammy needs to be healed of pneumonia. That's all this time."

Sammy would pray for the people who mocked and ridiculed him. "My Father, I pray for them; please save them," he prayed. "They don't know what they're doing to Sammy, Your child. That's all this time."

Sammy was very young when he died, after coming down with pneumonia. Before he died, two of the students who had mocked him came in tears and received Christ. And just before he

went home to be with his heavenly Father, Sammy prayed, “My Father, thank You for hearing Your servant, Sammy. That’s all this time.”

When you are misunderstood and treated poorly, don’t forget the heart of compassion your Father has toward you.

**Read Salvation: Profession or Possession by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1997.*

Chapter Three

THE GROANING OF THE SPIRIT

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

Sometimes we fail to connect Romans 8:26-27 with Romans 8:28-29, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Not only did He predestinate us, but because of His unconditional love, He justified and glorified us in our heavenly position. And “If God be

for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).

Why does everything work together for good? Certainly because of the Finished Work, but it's also because the Holy Spirit is groaning for us.

At times when you can't pray, when you don't sense God's presence, and you feel like you just can't get through to God, remember: You are a child of God. The Holy Spirit begins to groan and pray for you that you will know God's will in your life. He reveals the love of Christ. He prays with sighs and groanings that cannot be uttered with words.

The Broken Servant

In Acts 20:31, Paul said to elders of the church of Ephesus, “Watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.” The apostle was saying, “For three years, I wept for you. I shed tears in the daytime. I shed tears at night. And for three years, I taught you doctrine and wept when I preached. For three years, I was broken.”

Paul had warned them, “People in your own church will arise and cause a conspiracy, and ‘grievous wolves’ from without will enter in to

harm the flock” (see Acts 20:29-30).

But in verse 32 he said, “I commend you to God [the Lord], and to the word of his grace which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

Paul was a broken servant. Not just a servant, but a *broken* servant.

Promotion Through Humility

“He giveth [greater] grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6). Verse 7 says, “Submit...to God. And verse 8 says, “Draw nigh to God.”

Then verse 10 says, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” The Lord Himself will promote you.

Isaiah 57:15 says that God will dwell with the servant who has a “contrite and humble spirit, to revive [quicken] the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” God always meets a man or woman who is broken by quickening him according to the Word of God. As a result, the servant of God is promoted, and he is able to see miracles.

When we learn to walk in communion with God and submit to Him, we will have the life of

the Holy Spirit, not a critical spirit. Instead of being critical, we edify with creative communication.* We don't exalt ourselves above others. We're just broken servants.

The Way of Sacrifice

I once preached a message called "The Way of Sacrifice." Throughout the Old Testament, we see the constant sacrificing of animals. Whether it was Noah, Abraham, Isaac, or the Levites, God's way was always through sacrifice.

But the consummation of all sacrifices was Jesus on the Cross of Calvary. Even before He went to the Cross, His life was one of sacrifice. He came to serve others. In Romans 9:3, Paul said he wished he could go to hell if it would mean that his Jewish brethren could be saved. *Sacrifice.* Moses told God, "Blot my name out of the book of life if You're not going to forgive the people of Israel" (see Exodus 32:32). This is a life of sacrifice.

A Spirit-filled Christian lives with a love that sacrifices for others. It is never conditional or sentimental love. Christians who love sacrificially don't hurt people by possessing them or by allowing themselves to be possessed by others. That means if somebody tries to possess

you, it is sacrificial love not to let them.

Think of the intimacy of God toward His people. He bottles our tears (Psalm 56:8). That's quite intimate, isn't it? He records every step we take (Job 31:4). He knows our thoughts afar off (Psalm 139:2). He numbers the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). *That* is intimacy.

God knows your name; you're not just a number. We can cast all our cares upon Him, because He really cares for us. He wants us to be *that* intimate with Him. And until we go home to be with Him, He will continue to serve us with a sacrificial love that will never change.

**Read Praise Him in this Place by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1997.*

CONCLUSION

The presence of God is manifested in the power of love through the compassion of the Father, the tears of the Son, and the groaning of the Spirit. Even when the Word of God convicts us of sin, it is always done in love. While reading this booklet, if the Spirit has convicted you of anything, then, before God, repent of any sin that would rob you of your assurance of going to heaven. Don't be condemned; be purified by faith. Accept forgiveness and cleansing. Never react to conviction—cooperate with it, and God will make you as pure as you could ever be (Acts 15:9). Accept victory in every area of your life and become God's broken servant because of the tears of the Son, the compassion of the running Father, and the groaning of the Spirit.

Father, in the love and compassion of the Trinity, may this message motivate us to be broken, obedient servants as we yield every member of our bodies unto God. Thank You and praise You for Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.