

GOD'S RESPECT FOR TEARS, PSALM 56:8

Let us go to Psalm 56:8 for our thoughts for the day.

Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?
(Psalm 56:8).

So our thoughts for today will center around the subject of *tears*. We live in a day when people are proud, and it seems to be the going thing to prove how strong you are by withholding your tears or showing any emotion. But God in the beginning created our eyes with fountains that can produce liquid substance called tears that can flow down our cheeks when we need to express extreme emotions, either of pain or pleasure. Some people cry when they have pain. Some people cry when they have pleasure and some people solidify their tears so that they become hardened and indifferent to all emotions of their own and of others. I have met this kind of folk. But this is not what God planned in the beginning.

If God created us with tear glands then it was for the express purpose of our using those tear glands, and we would like to go to the Word of God today and to show you the power of tears or show you God's respect for tears. I would like to take our thoughts from Second Kings, the twentieth chapter concerning Hezekiah. It said:

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD (II Kings 20:1-5).

This is a beautiful section here to me. In the preceding chapter we find the story of how that Sennachirib, the Assyrian king, came up against Israel and came up against Hezekiah. And again

on that occasion, Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and he spread out the threatening letter that Sennachirib had sent to him. Then we find this marvelous contrast between these two chapters. Sennachirib departed in the midst of life, and we find Hezekiah being raised up in the midst of death. So how beautiful it is when God is the head over all things. He takes away those that should be taken away and He raises up those that should be raised up.

In the preceding chapter in verse thirty-five, we find these words:

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead (II Kings 19:35-37).

So we see that Sennachirib was taken. God took him in the midst of life. And here is Hezekiah in the midst of death and God looked down and saw his tears and heard his prayers and God answered mightily and raised him up here. So, beloved, we see that God said, "I have seen thy tears." And the word *seen* comes from the Hebrew word *raw-aw* which means to advise self, to behold, to consider, to discern, to perceive, to regard, to respect, to have a view. So when God saw the tears streaming down Hezekiah's face. As he turned his face, the Bible said in another section, toward the wall and began to cry unto the LORD, turned his face away from this world, turned his face away from human beings and poured out his heart unto the LORD with strong emotions, so much so that tears streamed down his face, God saw those tears. God regarded them, and God extended his life by adding fifteen years to his life. You know, our tears are salty. They have salt in them and our tears are like the sea of the salt.

And just like, beloved, the ocean in the natural purifies and sanctifies all that comes of the pollution and the corruption that is poured into it, then through the salt and through the shining

of the sun upon the sea, we see those beautiful vapours ascend up from the sea purified of their pollution and sanctified and ready to quench the thirst of man and beast, ready to water the earth with its rivers of fresh living water and to cause the earth to blossom and to bud and to grow and to produce new food and new life and to cover the face of the earth, make it beautiful and gladden the face of the earth with new rich green verdure.

So, beloved, we see that then it is the same with us as we weep before the LORD, and we turn our face to Him, and we turn away from this world, and we turn from human beings, and we pour out our emotions through strong weeping and crying unto Him, God has respect. He looks upon our tears. And it takes the tears to sanctify sometimes the hardness, the bitterness, the indifference in our lives. And God has to send sufferings, and He has to send things that make us weep and turn on the salt water in order to purify that the Sun of Righteousness might rise upon a heart that has poured out the salty water and pick up the vapours, as it were, of the freshness and the sweetness that we, in turn, will have a sweet spirit and a sweet attitude and a love and a delight for the Word of God that we, in turn, might bless others just like that God blesses the earth with the vapours from the sea.

It is so beautiful to love the LORD. It is so beautiful, beloved, to serve Him. It is so beautiful to accept what He sends our way and go pour out our tears unto Him instead of letting our tears solidify and pass them out in bitterness and enmity, beloved, in that form. Frozen tears that come out, a lot of times, in the form of frozen anger, frozen bitterness, and frozen hatred. So, beloved, the waves of the sea again are like our tears. When we let the tears come down, they are like the waves of the sea coming to take that which is unclean and impure to convert it into cleanliness and into purity.

May you not despise your tears. May you know how God respects them so much so that He

puts them in His bottles and writes them in His book.

Heavenly Father, we thank You today for the privilege to weep in thy presence. We thank You for the privilege to know Thy Truth that you do care about every weeping heart. You do care about every eye that is filled with tears. LORD, we ask You to bless the Truth to the hearts of people in radio land today. Grant that Your Word may be written in their heart, we pray in Jesus' Precious Name. Amen. ǫ