

## TEARS IN CHASTENING

Let us go to Psalm 39:12 for our thoughts for the day.

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more (Psalm 39:12).

We see on this occasion a Psalm of David, in which he had some sore sickness or affliction so he calls upon the LORD to have regard for his tears in the midst of his sickness, for God to look upon him in the midst of His sickness and see the tears that he was pouring out. You know, sometimes when we visit people that are sick and ill, I find them, instead of with a broken and contrite spirit and tears of gratitude coming down their face that they are even yet still alive and tears of appreciation for God's Mercy and tears of humility expressing their unworthiness, many times I do not see this, but rather I see bitterness and complaint and murmuring against God. "Why did this happen to me? Why is God so ugly," in so many words, "that He allowed this?" God is good and He has a purpose, a Divine Purpose and Plan in everything that happens to you.

And the Word said, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to His Purpose." And the Bible said that God has given Jesus Christ to be the Head over all things to the church. So, beloved, if He is the Head, and He makes all things work together for good, then, even in our sickness, as King David here, if we will turn and pour out our tears unto the LORD, beseeching Him to have mercy upon us and spare us and give us strength before it is time for us to really depart this world, He will answer. And certainly we know that God did hear David's prayer and God did answer and raise him up and he lived a rich, full life before the LORD.

Then, again, beloved, we see tears being poured out when we are lonely and when we are as a pilgrim. In Psalm 42:1-3, we find these words:

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday (Psalm 42:1-4).

So the writer of this Psalm here expresses also his feeling of being a pilgrim and a stranger when, through some catastrophe or affliction, he was prevented from going to the House of God, but he wept and poured out his tears in grateful remembrance of the time when he did have the privilege to go up to the House of God and worship and serve God with the multitude. Then he poured out his longing heart that God would raise him up that he again would be restored to that privilege.

Many times in my day, I find folk that want to be healed. They want to be raised up so that they can do the thing that their carnal heart desires to go and serve their own will and their own way in some selfish way. But, beloved, if we will let God sanctify the desire of our heart and come before Him with the right motive, and let Him fill our eyes with beseeching tears, with grateful tears of remembrance, when it is well with us, and ask Him to restore us—spirit, soul, and body that we might again return to serve Him—what is your motive if you are sick today for wanting to be well? What is your motive if you are sick in your body? Is it so that you can go back to your job? Go take care of your family? Well, now, all these things are good and God knows that. And these things we should do, but that should not be our primary motive. Our underlying original motive should be that God restore us so we can be raised up in newness of life to serve Him and go to His House and worship Him, then all these other things we will be able to do that are needful and necessary. How good to know how to approach the LORD.

Yes, the LORD gives us, beloved, times of separation, and sometimes He cuts us off, seemingly, from others so that we feel we are as a pilgrim and a stranger in a weary land, and God

permits this also so that He might heal our soul from looking unto a creature instead of the Creator. How good God is to make a pilgrim out of us, then we will find what we really do want in the bottom of our heart.

On this occasion, this man thirsted and longed for God. His soul panted after the LORD, just like a little deer that would be running fast. And sometimes little deers, they tell me, when they are trying to escape from the hounds that are chasing them, they will jump into a water brook and swim for a season to throw the dogs off the track. So, beloved, he likens his hungry, thirsty soul unto a little deer, running for dear life. So if we just pour out our souls unto God and say, "God, heal our souls," and use the salty tears coming down our face, and let God use them as a means of purifying our souls so that our motive might be to be raised up and to seek Him.

Again, beloved, in Psalm 80, we find that God gives tears through chastisement. God said that every son that He loves, every son that He received, He said, He chastens. And if we be without chastisement, He said that we are bastards. We are not legitimate sons. But here we find God chastening his people. In Psalm 80, beginning in verse three, it says:

Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure. Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh among themselves. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved (Psalm 80:3-7).

So, beloved, a lot of times God raises up warfaring circumstances and warfaring situations in our lives because it is a form of chastening us. It is the great mercy of God to turn us again unto Him and then when we turn to Him, then He will turn to us and cause the Light of His countenance to be lifted up again and to shine upon us. But how beautiful and how precious and how wonderful and how merciful God is to us that when we take the wrong way, He lets heartaches and trials and tribulations come and He gives us the Bread of tears to eat and He gives

us meat, beloved, in the form of tears that we might discover the vanity, the vexation of spirit and all the emptiness that is out there in this world when we turn away from the LORD Jesus Christ. So thank God for a broken and a contrite spirit. Thank God for the tears of chastening and the tears that come in sickness and in loneliness.

Heavenly Father, we thank You today for the LORD Jesus Christ Thy beloved Son Who loved us and gave Himself for us and Who is our bright and shining example. And LORD, as thou didst weep in the days of thy earthly journey, teach us how to weep and to pour out our tears before thee that You might have respect, that we might be lifted up and that we might be changed. from glory to glory because we pray in the precious Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ☐