

A TIME TO WEEP

Int.

1. Aim: To show that there is a time when we should cry and weep.*. but there is a time and place when all tears shall cease.
2. Have you ever wanted to have a good cry?
 - a. Ecl. 3:4 "**A time to weep and a time to laugh**;"
 - b. Crying is not a sign of weakness
 - i. Man is the only creature who sheds tears when he is emotionally distressed
 - ii. Sometimes we have emotional outbursts because of events in life and tears help to relieve the pressure
 - iii. Bob Hope tells of how service men in lonely places shed tears !
3. The Bible Gives
 - (1) Examples of people who were weeping,
 - (2) also some reasons why people should weep,
 - (3) and tells us about a time and place where there will be no more tears!

Discussion

I. SOME PEOPLE WHO CRIED IN THE BIBLE

A. Hannah

1. I Sam. 1:8
2. She was crying because she was barren
 - a. She promised God if He would give her a son she would give it to Him
 - b. She was given a son = Samuel = and she kept her promise
 - c. God rewarded her with 6 more children

B. David

1. Cried over his son Absalom
2. II Sam. 19:1 II Sam. 18:33
3. This wicked man was worth crying over as far as his father was concerned!

C. Peter

1. Lk. 22:62 **"And Peter went out and wept bitterly"**
2. He wept because of his sins
3. He had a Godly sorrow which worked repentance
4. Have you ever shed one tear over your transgressions!

D. Paul

1. Acts 20:31 **"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."**
2. He shed tears as he told brethren about the warnings of the Bible.

E. Christ

1. Jn. 11:35 **"Jesus Wept"**
 - a. Rom. 12:15 - this is ordained of God "Weep with them that weep"
 - b. Acts 9:39 is an example
2. Lk. 19:41 He wept over the lost condition of Jerusalem. He cried over the opportunities that Jerusalem had turned down!

II. SOME REASONS WHY WE CRY TODAY

A. Because of wasted opportunities

1. Gal. 6:10 - As we have opportunity
2. It will not return again
3. Take hold of an opportunity or it flees from you.
4. Jas. 4:17
5. It should cause us to weep over the many lost opportunities, that we have had!

B. The lost condition of others .

1. Jer. 9:1 there are many people slain by sin !
2. Jesus cried over the lost in the city of Jerusalem - Mt. 23:37 They refused to hear the prophets
3. Does it bother you to see the lost people all around us? Are you concerned? Do you care? We are our brothers keepers!!!

C. Because of abuse from our fellow man

1. Hagar was mistreated and abused by Sara
 - a. She was the handmaiden of Sarah
 - b. She had a child by Abraham by invitation of Sarah
 - c. Sara later cast her out.
 - d. Gen. 21:15,16
2. Israel was in bondage in Egypt and cried to God
 - a. Ex. 2:23
 - b. Ex. 3:7,9

3. Esau lost his birthright to his brother Jacob
 - a. Jacob deceived their father Isaac
 - b. Esau wept Gen. 27:38 "...**and Esau lifted up his voice and wept.**"

4. Mordecai - Esther 4:1 **"When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry"**

5. We sometimes receive abusive treatment from our fellow man and it causes us to weep and cry
 - a. Matt. 5:4, 10-12
 - b. 1 Pet. 4:16

- D. Because of sorrow that invades our lives
 1. Sickness - must come and it brings tears
 - a. Hezekiah had a sickness unto death and it caused him to weep - II Kings 20:3
 - b. Ps. 6:6
 2. Death must come and with it tears
 - a. Sara died at an old age but the Bible says, **"Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her."** Gen. 23:2
 - b. Gen. 37:35 Jacob cried over the bloodstained coat of Joseph
 - c. Acts 9:39 - Tabitha's death caused tears

E. Because of love and happiness

1. We are sometimes so filled with happiness we cry
 - a. Lk. 7:38 she cried because she was happy
 - b. Often there are tears shed when one responds to the invitation of Christ
 - c. Some cry at weddings
2. We cry when reunited with loved ones
 - a. Joseph cried - Gen. 43:30 Gen. 45:14-15
 - b. P.O.W.'s returned to their families - brought tears to our eyes as well as theirs
3. We often cry when we forgive one another
 - a. Gen. 33:4 Jacob and Esau met many years later and it was a moment of crying
 - b. We experience the same feeling
4. We cry sometimes because of the goodness of our loved ones toward us!
5. Happy tears are precious tears!

Conclusion

1. God has promised to wipe away all of our sad tears when we get to heaven Rev. 21:4
2. Lk. 6:21 "**Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh**" Mt. 5:4
3. Good people weep easily -- the better they are the more inclined to weeping, especially under affliction. Great men of God like David, Jonathan, Job, Ezra, Daniel, Paul, Peter and others shed many tears.
4. How shall God wipe away my tears in heaven if I shed none on earth ?

5. "I was born with tears and I shall die with tears and why then should I live without them in the valley of tears." Brooks
6. If we do not reach heaven where all our tears shall be wiped away then our destiny will be hell.
7. Tears will flow forever in hell Mt. 8:12 "...weeping and gnashing of teeth"
8. Ecl. 3:4
9. The best time to weep is now on earth so God can wipe away all tears in heaven !

Sources

Myron Keith Sermon # 58 and #125
Ecl. 3:4 in O.T. file

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