

MORE THAN A FEELING

SORROW

PART 5

Grieving the Lord

READ LUKE 13:34-35

INTRODUCTION

When we look at this short passage, (cross reference with Matthew 23:37-39) we see Jesus lamenting over the city of Jerusalem. Specifically, He is sorrowful for the inhabitants thereof. The sorrow of God can be misunderstood very easily from a human perspective. We tend to think that sorrow implies a regret or something that happened that was out of our control. This is not the case with a Holy and perfect God, however. He is not lamenting over Jerusalem because of His inability to “gather them up” but, rather, their unwillingness to be gathered by Him.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God reaching out to, and working for, Israel. He loves His people and desires them to turn to Him above and before any other gods. (Deut. 7:6, Joshua 23:12-13) We also see that He is a jealous God. (Ex. 20:5) He desires His people to give their whole hearts to Him and Him alone. This was not the pattern though and Israel often chose their false gods over Him. Not only that, they also killed all of the prophets that God did send to them to try and correct their path. (1 Thess. 2:14-15) They actively tried to get away from God's correction because, often, correction is painful or uncomfortable. (Heb. 12:11)

Jesus, showing His sorrow for the city that was often reached out to and often rejected Him, shows a couple of things to us in our own sorrow. First, He shows us that what grieves Him should be what grieves us. There is a lost and broken world that is in desperate need of a Savior and every minute there are people going to an eternity of separation from God. That should move us to sorrow and action. Second, Jesus exemplifies the idea that it is not wrong to weep for those who we love. At sometime in life, we will experience the loss of a loved one or one of our close friends turning to a path that leads to destruction. These things should be grieved and they can rock us to our core. Jesus has experienced grief as well and it is so important to know that He can relate to us in our earthly sorrow. He is a God that understands what we go through. He is personal and cares for us.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the primary ways we can misunderstand the sorrow of God? Why is it not a good thing to misunderstand? How can we change our perspective?
2. Does God ever regret? Does He ever get bitter? Does He ever feel hopeless about a situation? How can we best model our emotions after God's when we look at His response to His people?
3. Why were the children of Israel so hesitant to allow God to "gather them up"? How can we learn from their mistakes and allow God to protect us?
4. Read Psalm 91. How does that chapter show how we can move on and heal from sorrow?
5. When someone says, "Break my heart for what breaks yours", what does that mean? What breaks God's heart? Why should we be broken over those things too? What can we do to help?

WRAP UP

The emotions of God are certainly not like most of the emotions that we have in practice. They are real emotions though and He has given us these emotions because they can be wonderful when they are brought into submission to His will and direction. He has set for us the perfect example through His Son, Jesus Christ and we can look to Him to be our guide through an area that affects us every day. In His love, we can be broken for the things that matter and we can love the way He loves. We are able to show righteous anger and even hate the things that are not Godly. When we allow Him to direct our emotions, we are able to have great joy and see our love for Him, and others, grow.