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3 - MINUTE SERMONS

"I DRENCH MY COUCH WITH TEARS"

Psalms 6:6, "I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears" (KJV); "I dissolve my couch with my tears" (NAS); "I drench my couch with my weeping" (RSV); "I drench my couch with tears" (NIV). Take any of these translations which you like, and David was still a man of sorrow. He shed tears, many tears. No doubt there were many circumstances and occasions when David wept. Other passages tell us about his joy, his happiness, and his awe; yet, these and other passages tell us of his deep and hurtful grief. Are there times in which we weep? Are there times in which we should weep, but don't? Do you shed tears? When? Over what?

Most of us are familiar with scriptures that speak of shedding tears or weeping. As Jesus carried His cross through the streets of Jerusalem some women followed Him, weeping. Jesus told them, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children" (Luke 23:27-28). Some of the Jews and Mary were weeping at the grave of Lazarus; there, Jesus also wept (John 11:31, 33,35). Mary Magdalene stood by the sepulcher of Jesus and wept (John 20:13,15).

Fellow-Christians were breaking Paul's heart with their weeping (Acts 21:13). Paul served the Lord with many tears (Acts 20:19); and with tears in his eyes he taught the people, night and day (Acts 20:31). When he wrote the first Corinthian epistle, Paul said he did it with many tears" (2 Corinthians 2:4). When Peter approached the house of Dorcas he found the widows weeping as they showed the garments made by this good woman (Acts 9:39). All of these suggest some good thoughts and lessons for us today. Yet, there is more.

In Romans 12:15, we are told, "Weep with them that weep." Some amount of weeping, then, is commanded. But, there are reasons behind our weeping. "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:18). While we speak of all the joy and happiness that is to be found (and should be) in serving the Lord, let us not forget that there are some things about which we should weep.

There remains one other thing, about weeping, that needs to be mentioned in this short lesson. "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness" (James 4:9). Study the context of this verse and you shall appreciate it more. They were in sin; and, their laughter and joy were related thereto. James tells them, now, to mourn and to weep; and, that because of their sins. I suspect that such as this is in the picture in Matthew 5:4 and Luke 6:21, when they quote Jesus as saying, "Blessed are they that mourn." and, "Blessed are ye that weep now, for ye shall laugh." How can we, upon realizing that we are guilty of sin, laugh and joke about it? How can we shrug our shoulders as if it makes little difference? Perhaps, if we wept more in this life, we might avoid the weeping that is ahead, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Luke 13:28).