

Sharing God's Tears for a Lost World



Dear Friends,

Part 1 - A Time to Weep

Was there ever a time like ours? The world is covered, as it were, with tears—a sea of tears. Think of all the mothers weeping for their sons and daughters—missing children, runaways, teenagers corrupted and deceived by bad role models and rushing headlong into destruction. Can anyone count the tears parents shed for their children today?

No one can count the tears of the children either. What tragic experiences are mirrored in the desperately unhappy eyes of so many of them! Hundreds of thousands were the victims of perverse lust, sexual molestation and physical abuse even in their earliest years. It is heartbreaking to think of all the children who have been traumatically wounded and, unless Jesus heals them, scarred for life.

Where can you find happily playing youngsters, who are natural and unspoiled in their reactions? Where do you find fidelity in marriage, and families still intact?

How many children cry for their father, but in vain, for he has already walked out on the family? A mother abandoning her children can have even more devastating effects. More and more couples are not even going through the formalities of marriage: cohabitation is the trend today.

Can anyone measure the anguish of the children? Does anyone see their tears as they witness the distress and scenes leading up to divorce? When a husband runs off with another woman, the children are left behind. The tears of the abandoned mother fall on them.

In a family break-up children are caught in the middle. They are tossed to and fro like a tennis ball between mother with her new husband, and father with his new wife—used as little informants by one parent against the other. How that must grieve Jesus' loving heart! He longs to heal their deep hurts. He weeps with them when there is hardly anyone who feels for them or understands them.

Every child is a creature of God and meant to be a joy for his Maker and for others. Yet today so many children have become sick because of all the heartache. Psychiatrists try to help them, for often they are emotionally disturbed, aggressive, more prone to illness than others and, when a little older, liable to escape into drink and drugs. Sorrow upon sorrow ... An unending stream of tears ... And if the youngsters themselves do not cry, it is because they are too desperate.

This is the age of God's tears.

A father, never before seen in tears, is weeping. His only son, whom he loves dearly, his heir, gifted, good-looking, and in the prime of youth, hangs around with the young drug addicts in the park.



Once he was his father's pride and joy, now he is a pathetic sight, and his mother can hardly go on living for sheer grief.

... Just one of many thousands of drug addicts at one of their sordid meeting-places throughout the world. Often they were unaware of what they were doing when they first sampled the poisonous concoction offered by Satan in our times: now they cannot break the habit. Most of them are doomed. One day they will be found dead in some alley, hardly recognisable. What a tragic ending! Grief-stricken family members and distressed friends stand at the open grave in a state of shock.

Generally, however, the public has grown accustomed to such incidents. A frequent remark is, "That's the way things are these days." Few show concern for the plight of the young. But there is Someone who does care, Someone who really loves them—God our Father. He implores parents: Do as My commandments say; be faithful in your marriage for your own sake, and think of your children. But His appeal falls on deaf ears. And God weeps.

Hurting children belong in the open arms of their heavenly Father, who can comfort and help them. He is their Maker and Father, who is "merciful and gracious ... abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15). But who tells them that? They do not know Him. Thus the tears of the children continue to flow.

God, in His compassion, gathers their tears (see Psalm 56:8). Indeed, He longs to gather all the tears shed in this age of suffering. Every single one is precious to Him.



O Father of compassion great,
You cannot bear to see the pain
Of all Your suffering children.
Desiring but their happiness,
You pour out love and tenderness
Till they're no longer hurting.

O Father of compassion great,
Heartbroken for Your children's sake
When they are sad and weeping.
You will not rest until the wounds
So deep within the soul are soothed
With healing balm of comfort.

O Father of compassion great,
All grief and pain You love away
As Father of all comfort.
O Father, Father, making known
Your loving heart in all our woe,
A fount of loving-kindness.

O Father of compassion great,
You care for those enduring pain,
Their grief and sorrow healing.
Your heart with gentle love overflows,
Soothing Your children's wounded souls,
Surrounding them with goodness.

God loves us as no one else could ever love us. This we know. Otherwise He would not have given His dearest and best, His only begotten Son, to suffer and die for us (John 3:16). God is a Father, a loving Father who cares for His child and like a mother comforts him (Isaiah 66:13). He forgets not a single one, for as He Himself promised,

*Can a woman forget her sucking child,
that she should have no compassion
on the son of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.
Isaiah 49:15*

People may forget us, even if at first they wept with us. But there is Someone who will never forget us. We have a special place in His heart. When our heavenly Father sometimes has to discipline us, it is only with great reluctance. It always hurts Him more than it hurts us.

*Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child?
For as often as I speak against him,
I do remember him still.
Therefore my heart yearns for him;
I will surely have mercy on him.
Jeremiah 31:20*

As we see, the great and mighty God has a tender, fatherly heart. How can we ever grasp the wonder of it all! He could have been just the Maker, the High and Lofty One, the omniscient, omnipotent God. But He is also the Father, and His love for His children is infinitely greater than that of any human father.

No one can compare with the heavenly Father in His sorrow over the sons of men—not even the best of fathers and most caring of mothers in their grief over a child gone astray or in distress.

If mothers now weep day and night over the sinful ways and suffering of their children, can we not sense how much more God must grieve, seeing that His love is far greater? His capacity for love is a thousand times greater than ours. God is love. His very nature is love. Only love can suffer for the sake of others, as God the Father suffered when He delivered up His Son to death for us. Love will suffer, sacrifice and endure everything, so that others might receive comfort and help.

In this age of misery and affliction let us lift up our eyes to God in prayer. Gazing into His loving Father-heart, how can we fail to lament for His grief?

Oh, the suffering of God
unfathomably deep.
Lament and mourn.
Open, you depths,
and let tears flow forth
for the anguish of our God.
Let all the world be silent,
hushed and reverent
awed by His pain,
so infinitely great.
We are to blame,
having piled sin upon sin.

Not even in the uttermost
depths is there suffering
like this:
His sorrow over
our sinning.
Sin, sin, sin
deep as the abyss—
a source of never-ending
anguish.
Oh, come and lament!
Eternal love is weeping.
Is there anyone who will
weep with Him?

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION AND THE WORLD

Lord Jesus,

Bless our people. Grant us another move of Your Spirit. Send us an awakening through the powerful preaching of Your Word.

May tears flow in repentance for the crimes we have heaped upon ourselves as a nation and as a world, for the killing of those considered "unfit" to live, the innocent victims of war and terror, not to forget the horrific death of millions of Your chosen people when so many in our Christian world chose to look the other way.

Help us to do what we can to make amends. Stem the rising tide of antisemitism.

We ask for those in positions of authority in our nation. Help them to seek the best of the people as a whole out of reverence for You. Curb trends disregarding Your commandments as the basis for law and order in our society. Protect us from political unrest and chaos and upsurge in crime. Help families to overcome the generation gap through humble love and wisdom and a new focus on Your Word.

Raise up people who grieve with a priestly heart over the moral decline of our nation and all those turning their backs on You. May each one of us stand in the breach for our people with fervent prayer. Help us to take Your commandments seriously in our own lives, especially when it comes to the Sermon on the Mount.

For the sake of the precious blood of Your Son have mercy on our world suffering from multiple sorrows.

We remember before You especially those countries long afflicted by hunger, unrest, persecution and the horrors of war.

We pray on behalf of a world whose sins and vices are crying out to heaven. Have mercy on us. See all the believers repenting before You and hold back the impending judgement. Shake us out of our complacency. Help us to recognise the signs of the times. Help us to listen to Your voice of warning, unlike Noah's generation, who went about their normal lives as if You had never spoken. Help us to make the best use of the time of grace we still have. Give us a spiritual awakening in this nation and beyond, to the ends of the earth. Start a movement of repentance. Draw people's hearts back to You. How we long for multitudes to turn to You and be saved before judgement descends. Help us all to live for the day when You will soon return and establish Your everlasting kingdom as the King of love. Amen

My eyes will be on
the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell
with Me. Psalm 101:6



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