

GOD FORGAVE – WEEP FOR JOY

CMBC November 3, 2013 Communion Service

Zechariah 12:10 – 14

What were we thinking!!!?

I am reading from Zechariah chapter 12.

Zechariah 12:10 – 14; 13:1 - 2

[10] “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. [11] On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great... [12] The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their wives, [14] and all of the clans and their wives.

[13:1] “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

[2] “On that day,...” declares the LORD Almighty, “I will remove both the false prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.”

There is a similar Scripture in Revelation chapter one.

Revelation 1:4 – 8 Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come ... [5] from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. ... Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, [6] ... —to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

[7] Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn (shall weep) because of him.

Here are grown men weeping. It is a sight we seldom see – maybe never have seen.

I remember a man who had acted very foolishly, without any serious thought about the consequences. And then it hit him. What had he done?!! There was no going back. No, no, no he cried. What was I thinking?

There are 3 reasons for this weeping in what Zacharias heard from God. In fact, when we come honestly to this Communion Table, this table of remembrance, we too could join in this weeping.

1. WEEP OVER WHO HAS BEEN PIERCED

- a. This is the Creator of the universe!
 - i. This is the power that has created everything there is,
 1. Every particle
 2. Every being, man and beyond.
 3. Every power that exists
 - ii. This is the Almighty God
 1. The one that is pierced is above every power, every authority,
 2. He is the Lord of lords, the king of kings,
 3. He is the God above all gods.
 - iii. When you realize that we have recklessly put him on a cross and pierced him, that is enough to make us weep with fear.
 - iv. What were we thinking?
 - v. But there is something even more distressing to make us weep
- b. This is the One, the Almighty God who came in love
 - i. He came to rescue us
 - ii. He came to bring peace
 - iii. He came because he cared deeply. He loves us
 - iv. He came because he desired to make us part of His family, to give us His name
 - v. What were we thinking when we put Him on the cross and pierced Him,
 - vi. We put him to death!
 - vii. Oh the weeping over our foolishness – the weeping over seeing who it was that we priced.

There is a second reason for weeping.

2. WEEP OVER OUR GUILT IN THE PIERCING

- a. It was our sin, our guilt
 - i. It wasn't only those who drove the nails into his hands and feet and flung the spear into his side
 - ii. It was my sin, my disobedience, my arrogance that caused him to die
 - iii. I too am guilty
 - iv. What were we thinking?
- b. It was the consequence we deserved
 - i. Not only did our sin contribute to his death
 - ii. Our sin brought about our own destruction
 1. The struggle and death of relationships all around us
 2. The fighting, misunderstandings, the bitterness and arguments

- 3. And it has brought about the destruction of our souls
 - iii. And we have created and tolerate an impossible barrier between us and this God of love
 - iv. What were we thinking?
- c. Men and their wives weep
- i. There is picture in Zachariah that I haven't seen anywhere else in Scripture
 - ii. The husband went home and wept with his wife.
 - iii. [12] The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives **by themselves**: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, [13] the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives, [14] and all the rest of the clans and their wives.
 - iv. Men don't often weep in front of their wives
 - 1. And these men didn't go off and weep by themselves.
 - 2. This is genuine remorse and repentance
 - 3. It was there in the place where they were best known, both husband and wife, and in honesty, humility and openness, they acknowledged their sin, and wept together.
 - v. What were we thinking?

There is another reason to weep. A blessed reason.

3. WEEP FOR JOY OVER HIS FORGIVENESS

- a. This is why He came
 - i. He came so He could take the punishment for our sins
 - ii. The punishment for sin is death, spiritual, eternal death, and he died in our place
 - iii. Our cruelty could not stop Him, could not stop His love
 - 1. He is a God of love
 - 2. He is a God of mercy
 - 3. He would shed his blood to bring our redemption, to buy us back from hell.
- b. He took our condemnation
 - i. He is a just God, and sin must be punished - will be punished. Punished by death.
 - ii. We were condemned, without hope
 - iii. He took our condemnation
 - iv. All of our sin was placed on him
- c. We have been cleansed and forgiven

- i. Because of what he did, we have been cleansed from our guilt
- ii. He has forgiven us. Think of that!!
- iii. And because He was a sinless God, He rose from the dead
 1. He has offered us the gift of eternal life if we will believe
 2. He has promised us entrance into heaven because of what he did
- iv. He broke down the barrier, the barrier we could never have overcome
 1. He has cleansed us and called us his children
Zechariah 13:1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.
 2. A fountain of his blood has cleansed us from sin and impurity.
 3. And with tears of joy, we stand at the cross and weep.

We come to this table

- Weeping over who has been pierced
- Weeping over our guilt in the piercing
- Weeping for joy over his forgiveness

This is the God who died on the cross for your sin and gives to us eternal life in heaven.

If you have never invited him into your life. You can do so right now.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” You can invite him in right now. And eat from this table, declaring your trust in God.

If you are weeping, but not weeping for joy, because you aren't sure if you have been forgiven. Turn your weeping to joy. God has promised to forgive. Eat at this table knowing that His word tells us, “The blood of Jesus cleanses us from ALL sin.” Accept His promise. Trust His word. You have been forgiven.