

Weeping Over Sin

Text : **James 4: 4-10 ; II Corinthians 7: 5-11**

- S#1.**
S#2.
- A. What is the most important relationship in your life? That with God.**
1. Is that relationship all that you would want it to be ?
 2. If not, whose responsibility is it to improve it ?
- B. What is the greatest obstacle to your having a closer relationship with God ?**
1. Man's tendency toward **hedonism** is the greatest hindrance to his relationship w/ G.
 - a. Hedonism is defined as : the pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence.
 - b. All mankind shares that tendency because all live in a tabernacle of flesh.

Eph. 2: 2-3 – in which you formerly walked according to the **S#3.**
course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
 2. When one becomes a Christian he must develop a different mindset toward sin.

Rom. 12: 2 – And do not be conformed to this world, but be **S#4.**
transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, ...
 3. Even when one's mind is transformed, his body still longs for the pleasures of sin.
- C. As long as we are in this body of clay, like a magnet, sin pulls us toward itself.**
1. **Rom. 7: 19-20** – For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice **S#5.**
the very evil that I do not want. **20** But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
 2. Our tendency is to make excuses for our sins, to rationalize it, to minimize it.
 - a. “No body's perfect ... every one sins once and a while.”
 - b. I'm improving; you should have seen me before.
 3. People are fond of comparing themselves to others.
 - a. **Luke 18: 10-11** – Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **S#6.**
Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.’

- b. **II Cor. 10:12b** – ... when they measure themselves by themselves **S#7.**
and compare themselves with themselves,
they are without understanding.

4. There is one resources to which we can safely compare ourselves.

II Tim. 3: 16-17 – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **S#8.**
teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in
righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be
thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5. Jesus is the only example we can safely use to pattern our lives.

- a. **I John 2: 6** – By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one **S#9.**
who says he abides in Him ought himself to
walk in the same manner as He walked.

b. Even the inspired Apostles patterned their lives after Jesus.

I Cor. 11: 1 – Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

D. James instructs us that the person of faith must be remorseful for his sins.

James 4: 8-10 – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **S#10.**
Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts,
you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep;
let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to
gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord,
and He will exalt you.

E. As we examine this text our goals will be to learn : **S#11.**

1. What “mourning” conveys.
2. The object of this mourning
3. The necessity of this mourning
4. The result of this mourning

I. What “mourning” conveys in this text. **S#12.**

A. “Mourning” translates the strongest word for grief in the Greek language. **S#13.**

1. Mourning : { *pentheo* } to mourn for, lament one (Strong's #3996 .. noun is #3997)
2. “Deep grief or intense sorrow, openly manifested by weeping audibly”
3. It is complete despair; an outward manifestation of an inward brokenness.

B. This is the response of those who suffer the loss of a loved one, e.g., Jesus. **S#14.**

1. **Mark 16: 10** – She went and reported to those who had been with
Him, while they were mourning and weeping.

2. **Gen. 37: 33-35** – Then he examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!" **34** So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. **35** Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, "Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him. **S#15.**

II. What is the object of the mourning commanded in this text

S#16.

A. This is not a general commentary on the attitude of Christians

S#17.

1. The Puritans erroneously viewed our text and Luke 6: 21, 25 as forbidding laughter.
2. The Apostle Paul instructed believers to be joyful people.
 - a. **I Thess. 5: 16** – Rejoice always
 - b. **Phil. 4: 4** – Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice

S#18.

B. This command is not to grieve, mourn , weep over the consequences of sin.

1. One can fear the consequences of his sin without repenting of them.
Teenager gets a traffic ticket for racing with his parents' car. **For example :**
He regrets getting caught and fears going home, but brags to his buddies about it.
2. Cain wept over the consequences of his sin.
Gen. 4: 12-13 – "When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." **13** Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ..." **S#19.**
3. Judas wept because of the consequences of his betrayal of Jesus.
Matt. 27: 3 – Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, **S#20.**

C. I must Grieve, Mourn, Weep over the sins I have committed.

1. David wept and grieved over the sin that he had committed.
Psa. 51: 1-4 – Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. **S#21.**

2. Peter grieved over the sin he had committed.

Luke 22: 60-62 – But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are **S#22.** talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. **61** The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." **62** And he went out and wept bitterly.

D. When we sin we mourn, grieve and weep over what we have done.

1. We cannot feel good about ourselves while the guilt of sin hangs over our head.
2. Sin puts a barrier between the sinner and God.
3. Sin breaks the heart of God.
4. Our sins put Jesus on the cross.

III. The necessity of believers being miserable, mourning, and weeping.

S#23.

A. "Godly sorrow" is an essential component of repentance.

S#24.

1. The sorrow of the world brings death ... permanent separation from God.
II Cor. 7: 10 – ... the sorrow of the world produces death.
2. Sorrow that is according to the will of God produces eternal life.
II Cor. 7: 10 – For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
3. Both are "sorrow", what's the difference ?
 - a. The difference is the motivation of the heart that feels the sorrow.
 - b. Godly sorrow produces true repentance ..., i.e., permanent change.
 - c. Worldly sorrow may motivate change but it's neither from the heart nor permanent

B. God monitors the hearts of men and seeks heartfelt repentance .. real change.

1. God knows all of your thoughts before you are even born.
Psa. 139: 2-4 – You know when I sit down and when I rise up; **S#25.**
You understand my thought from afar. **3** You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.
2. We may fool others and even fool ourselves, but God knows our true motives.
 - a. **Prov. 16:2** – All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, **S#26.**
But the LORD weighs the motives.

- b. **I Cor. 4: 5** – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
3. Therefore (**Psa 34: 18**) God knows if we are truly mourning our sinfulness. **S#27.**
- C. The mourning to which James refers is part of the process of humbling to God.
1. **James 4: 10** – Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
 2. One has not surrendered (*humbled*) himself until he truly regrets offending God.

IV. The result of believers being miserable, mourning and weeping.

S#28.

- A. Repentance is essential to forgiveness. **S#29.**
1. **Acts 3: 19** – Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;
 2. Repentance is a pre-requisite to forgiveness so no one can be saved without it.
- B. God requires sincere sorrow for sins as part of repentance.
1. **Joel 2: 12-13** – "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; **13** And rend your heart and not your garments. "Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, Abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil. **S#30.**
 2. David was broken hearted and Peter wept bitterly because of their sins.
 3. **Jonah 4** .. The city of Nineveh fasted and debased themselves w/ sackcloth & ashes
- C. God does not instruct us to mourn to make us sad, but to save us.
1. **I Tim. 2: 3-4** – This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 2. Sorrow for sin motivates repentance ... So That Forgiveness.

INVITATION : What is YOUR attitude toward YOUR sins ?
Do you mourn over them ?
Have you humbled yourself before God.

S#1. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 4: 4-10**

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** **Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.** **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

II Corinthian 7: 5-11

5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. **6** But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; **7** and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more. **8** For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it — for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while — **9** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. **10** **For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.** **11** For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.