

OUR TEARS VALUABLE TO THE EYES OF THE LORD

Clanwilliam (08:45) Vredendal (11:00) 2013/06/18

Read: Psalm 56:1-13

Text: Psalm 56:8

TEXT:

8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?
(Psalm 56:8 Modern King James Version)

There are many tears in the life of every person – tears of joy and happiness; tears of thankfulness and tears of anger; tears of raw grief at the funeral of a beloved; tears at every departure of parents and children...

Tears are the sign of a deep emotional experience. Baby tears of toddlers flow over their cheeks; Tears are often shed in silence when sleep evades you. Great stress and especially stress amongst males is the result of tears held back – to cry is a sign of weakness; men and boys do not cry – “Cowboys don’t cry!”

Beloved congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

It is not strange that in the Bible reference is made to tears. There are numerous examples of people who cried. – Even our Lord Jesus Christ cried.

- **After the death of Lazarus, His friend –**

35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" 37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone. (John 11:35-39)

- **At the end of His earthly stay –**

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to her, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not! (Matthew 23:37)

By reading this specific Psalm we find the cause of His tears; we note that in the Bible there are examples of other males as well as females that cried and we are consoled in our daily battle on this vale of tears!

1. CONTRIBUTARY CAUSE OF DAVID'S TEARS:

In the title we read:

To the chief music-maker; put to Jonath elem rehokim. Of David. Michtam. When the Philistines took him in Gath. (Bible in Basic English 1965)

Jeremiah (9:1)

*Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night
For the slain of the daughter of my people!*

A father at the mount of Glorification (Mark 9:24 Modern King James Version)

*24 immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my
unbelief!"*

Peter the rock (Mark 14:72)

*A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him,
"Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he
wept.*

ENCOURAGED IN OUR DAILY BATTLE ON THIS VALE OF TEARS!

This poem by David could be sung to the well-known song of yesteryear – “Die Duif van die Terebinte
(acorn trees)” Die Eikestad, Stellenbosch automatically comes to mind.

But there is also another translation possible:

‘Die stomme duiwe onder die vreemdes’ (The mute doves amongst the strangers)

The dove is the image of defenseless innocence. Muteness is an attribute of David his patience in
suffering – pointing towards the Son of David, Jesus Christ, of whom Isaiah prophesized that he as a
sheep before its shearers was dumb.

In every province of South Africa we are aware of doves cooing in different ways.

Next time you emotionally lose control over your tear glands, listen to the song of the doves peacefully
cooing, think about David’s poem in Psalm 56 and remember what somebody once said:

Tears cleanse our soul!

Even should my tears be my daily food when my enemies ask me: “Where is your God?” (Psalm 42:3)
even should it seem to me that my situation of life has become too much for me, I share the trust of David.

*3 When I am afraid I will trust in You. 4 In God I will praise His Word; in God I have put my trust; I will not
fear what flesh can do to me. (V3, 4)*

Even should I have to speak like David about my opponents (V5, 6)

5 All day long they pervert my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They stir up strife; they hide themselves; they watch my steps as they wait for my soul.

Then my trust remains on the Lord.

8 You number my wandering; O put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your Book?

4. END

In one of the pilgrimage songs sung by the people of the Old Testament when they went to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover we find – the New Testamental children of God (the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ) time and again the consoling assurance:

5 Those who sow in tears

shall reap in joy.

6 He who goes forth and weeps,

bearing precious seed, shall

doubtless come again with rejoicing,

bringing his sheaves with him.

This assurance they learnt *When the Lord changed the fate of Zion.*

We, as the children of the Lord, our fate was also radically changed when our Intercessor and Savior said in a great voice on the cross “It is finished!”

On the way to Golgotha via the narrow streets of old Jerusalem (Zion) Jesus said to the crying women:

28 "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

29 "For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!'

(Luke 23:28,29)

Should I, on my road of life, be defenseless like a dove in the oak trees, I then rejoice in my tears:

12 Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You,

13 For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?

AMEN