

Our 'sigh and cry', and Christ's



Reading:- **Exodus 2.23-25, Ezekiel 9.1-4, Psalm 107.4-9**

- We just read a few passages with something in common - the words **sigh** and **cry**.

- You may think that it means just a simple shrug and a sigh.
Or that the cry is just a few tears.

- But the word:

'Sigh'- means to moan, gasp in pain, or grief, to mourn.

'Cry' - to shriek, groan, make lamentation.

- These are more serious words than we might think
 - these are deep sorrows.
- But, they are actually sorrows that, if you haven't experienced them, you are in grave danger.

“Sorrows about what Sir?”

- Well, it's not about romantic heartbreak
 - although that can be painful
- It's not even about the death of someone
 - although that can be worse.
- It's sorrow about the lost condition of a human soul.
 - It's deeper than **physical** death, or human relationships -
 - It's about **spiritual** death, and our broken relationship with God.
- You see there's something that is inextricably linked to **DEATH**- and that is **SIN**.
- Here's a Question:
 - Have you ever sinned? - done anything wrong in your life?
- Here's another Question:
- What are you going to do about that?
 - Nothing?
 - That ends in a disaster.
 - Maybe you think you're going to improve
 - You've made some mistakes, and now you're growing.
 - Everyone has to work on themselves - nobody's perfect
- Well, that's right, nobody is perfect.
- That's why nobody is going to be let off their guilt by the Righteous Judge- God!
- It's all written down in His records- and those books will be opened.
- Sin is more serious than we are led to believe in the world.
 - The Bible says “the soul that sinneth, it shall die”
 - Think about it;
 - Who is largely in control of the media you consume?

- The news, the films, the adverts, the videos, that influence how we think?
- The answer is -people, who are themselves sinners.
- Mostly non Christian people.
- Do you think they're going to make a big deal about sin?
- Do you think they really understand the seriousness of it?
- No
- So to not take sin seriously, because the World doesn't, is a bad policy.
- We need to understand the truth about it, if we're going to do something about spiritual death.
 - That truth can only come from God
- There is a perfect standard out there
 - And we fall far short
- That's why I say: what are you going to do about it?
- It's like finding a man lying across some train tracks.

You say

- "there's a train due on this line in 10 minutes, what are you going to do?"

He says

- "Oh, maybe it will be cancelled"

Or he says

- "There's some other people lying on this line as well as me, but they don't seem worried"

- You might say to yourself, that's not a good reason for him to do nothing.
 - People can act just like that spiritually.
- The sword of Damocles ill (A Greek legend told by Cicero, about Damocles Courtier of King Dionysius)

- But what we have in the passages we read (and others I'm going to show you) is examples of people taking Sin very seriously.
- At the very least, they are distressed.
 - They mourn and lament.
 - They 'Sigh'
- We need to do that, if we are to be saved - we need to repent of sin
- But that, on its own, isn't enough
- If you're going to turn from something, what are you going to turn to?
- They also 'Cry'.
- Who do they cry to?

Lets look:-

Exodus 2:23-25 "And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel **sighed** by reason of the bondage, and they **cried, and their cry came up unto God** by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them."

- They cried to God.
 - They prayed.
 - And it wasn't a vain thing to do.
 - Because God heard them, looked upon them, and had respect unto them because they took sin seriously, and called upon God about it.

Look at:

Ezekiel 9:4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that **sigh and that cry** for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

- God hears these people who sigh and cry as well.

- And what does He do?
- He sends someone to go to them, and mark them to be spared destruction.
- It is a man clothed in linen - like Christ clothed in His Righteousness
- You see, just before this, God has shown Ezekiel the prophet that the sin of the people needed to be dealt with, and he calls destroying angels, with slaughter weapons in their hands, to go throughout the city and dispense a righteous judgement upon the sinners. But to not touch those who were marked for mercy and forgiveness because they called upon God for it.
- So we need to take sin seriously, and call upon God because of it.
- Look at another example of such a cry in:

Lamentations 3:55-58

"I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon. Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at **my cry**.

Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life."

- Here is not only God hearing, answering "**fear not**", because he's been spared, but it tells us why!

"thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast **redeemed** my life."

- Redeemed; that is - purchased the price of a slave, so they might be set free.
 - Well that's Good News!
 - But hold on. What price?
 - And how was it paid?
 - Well, it was a terrible price
 - And it was paid on a dark day
 - So terrible that only God could pay it
 - So dark that the Sun itself seemed to diminish its light out of awe and respect.

- You see Sin has to be punished - either by the sinner, or by a Substitute.
- If you think sin isn't serious, then look at what God had to do to redeem the sinners who sigh and cry.
- Roman crucifixion is just a way of dying - a terrible way, but many have undergone it.
 - But what Jesus Christ (the God-Man) endured upon that cross, was not endured by anyone in all of human history before or since.
- It was the sins of billions of people being credited to Him, and the punishment because of those sins being poured out upon Him
 - A spiritual punishment that words are too inadequate to describe.
- We said no one's perfect, but that's not entirely true.
 - He was perfect
 - That's why God can redeem people
 - Because His perfection (Righteousness) can be credited to those whose sin had been put upon Him.
 - Like a sort of divine 'swap'.
 - Therefore they can be freely given the eternal reward for that righteousness that Jesus Christ had earned!
- There's another example of the prayers of the redeemed in Psalm 107
 - It says in Psalms 107:1,2

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

- There are Four examples in fact- after four pictures of the results of separation from God.

The four pictures are:

- Being lost in the wilderness

- Being in a dark prison
- Being sick unto death
- And being in a storm on the high seas

- Does any of these describe how you feel?
- Do they describe your spiritual situation?

On each occasion they are saved by crying out in faith-
four times it says:-

“Then they **cry** unto the LORD in their trouble,
and he bringeth them out of their distresses.”

- Will you do the same?
- Don't do nothing, and hope for the best- that's a vain hope
- Remember, the Bible says “**ye have not because ye ask not**”

- But it's not only we who cry.
 - Do you think God is unfeeling, and hard?
 - He doesn't care, and lets people off on a whim, whilst condemning others without a thought?

- No, God cares deeply - more than we care for ourselves.

- Look at the way He responds to the death of Lazarus, and the mourning of his family -

John 11:33-36 “When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

And look also when He looked over the inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-44 “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and **wept** over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children

within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

- Do you know the things that ‘belong unto peace’ for your soul?
 - You’ve just been told.
 - What are you going to do about it?
 - Nothing? Like staying lying on that trainline?
- The ‘day of visitation’ is the coming of the Messiah. The promised Saviour
 - But they didn’t realise and only judgement was left.
 - For the city of Jerusalem, it was the terrible Roman siege of AD70.
 - General Titus surrounded the city, cut off all food and water and starved them before pulling down the Temple in a slaughter so great the blood ran down the steps.
 - But Jesus had warned the people to flee, and those who did, were saved.
- He warns us of an even greater destruction - that of our souls
- You need to ‘sigh’ for your guilt,
and ‘cry’ out to Him for your salvation
 - Groan, gasp, and make lamentation!
- Not just to ‘save your skin’, but so you can know the love that caused Christ to weep for His dear children.
- Not only weep, but cry out on the cross.
- That cry of desolation, and that loud shout of victory Mark 15:37 “[And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.](#)”
- You may think you know what love is
- But if you’re not saved like that, then you cannot really know the deepest love in the world - the love of God.
- But we pray that you will, and then instead of mourning and lamenting and crying, you’ll laugh and rejoice with joy.
- A deep joy that stays with you even through sadness and trials.

- That's satisfaction, that's true salvation of soul.

Let's pray