



FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:

Staying positive
in a negative world, Lesson 8

GOOD MORNING!

Thus far in this series we've covered:

- The FEAR of eternal insecurity...
 - The FEAR of death...
 - The FEAR of failure...
- The FEAR of choosing...
- The FEAR of strongholds...
- The FEAR of problems...
- and the FEAR of success.

- Those seven fears cover a lot of ground in human existence! You can place many of mankind's fears in those seven categories.

- Since our series is "Fears, Tears & Jeers," and we have four weeks left (the series runs until the end of October), we're now going to switch...

From fears to tears

- Tears = drops of fluid that moisten eyes
- Cry = to shed tears; to call loudly; to bawl, howl, sob, wail, weep



What causes tears?

- Sometimes they are caused by onions...
- Sometimes by smoke...
- Sometimes by joy...
- But mostly they are caused by pains, hurts, and sorrows.




Think about when you've cried.


- When you've been betrayed or misunderstood.
- When you're criticized and "dumped on" unfairly.
- When you've experienced severe hardship or injury.
- When you're empathizing with someone else's pain.

- “Tears” appear 36 times in Scripture.
- “Sorrow” and its derivatives appear 113x.
- “Hurt” and its derivatives appear 67x.
- “Pain” and its derivatives appear 36x.
- “Suffer” and its derivatives appear 167x.
- “Groan” and its derivatives appear 21x.

In this life, we will never be insulated from tears.



- *“For we know that the whole creation **groaneth and travaileth in pain** together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”*
Romans 8:22-23



- *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...**a time to weep**, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”* Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

We are not above our Master!

- “Jesus *wept.*” John 11:35
- “He is despised and rejected of men; a **man of sorrows**, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” Isaiah 53:3



- Sometimes we need a good cry.
There is something cleansing about it.

First account of tears...

TEARS FROM MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES

- “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live...” 2 Kings 20:1-5

• *“Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD saying, I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah **wept sore...**”*

• *“And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee...”*

• The LORD gave Hezekiah 15 extra years.

TEARS FROM INTENSE SUFFERING:

• How about Job in 16:20?

• *“My friends scorn me: but mine eye **poureth out tears** unto God.”*

TEARS FROM OVERWHELMING CHALLENGES:

- Psalm 6:6 says, *"I am weary with my groaning; all the night I make my bed to swim; **I water my couch with tears.** Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies."*

TEARS FROM OPPRESSION:

- *"**My tears have been my meat day and night,** while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?"* Psalm 42:3

*"So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun; and behold **the tears of such as were oppressed,** and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter."* Ecclesiastes 4:1

• *“On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews’ enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her...”*

• *“And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and **besought him with tears to put away the mischief** of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.” Esther 8:1-3*

TEARS FROM OUR MISTAKES:

• *“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; **hold not thy peace at my tears**: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go thence, and be no more.” Psalm 39:12-13*

TEARS FROM GOD'S JUDGEMENT:

Jeremiah 9:1 says, "*OH that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears; that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people.*"

TEARS FROM FRUSTRATION:

- "*O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? **Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.** Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours; and our enemies laugh among themselves. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.*" Psalm 80:4-7

TEARS FROM SERVING GOD:

*"...ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the LORD with all humility of mind, **and with many tears,** and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews. And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house." Acts 20:18-20*

• The Apostle Paul knew about tears, big-time. In Acts 20:31, he continues... *“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I **ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.**”*

• *“And **they all wept sore**, and fell on Paul’s neck, and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more.”*
v. 37-38

So what’s the “solution?”

• Psalm 56:8-9 says, *“Thou tellest my wanderings: **put thou my tears into thy bottle; are they not in thy book?** When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is with me.”*

• Psalm 116:8, *“**For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears,** and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.”*

• Psalm 126:5-6 says, *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”*

TRUST...IN...GOD!

- To someone in deep pain, it may sound flippant, trite, irrelevant, insensitive, and far too simple...
- But it's the truth. Where else will you go for comfort, security and hope? To whom will you turn?

The Psalmist came full circle.

- *“The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.”* Psalm 6:9-10

• *“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.” Psalm 42:5*

• *“When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me. In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me...”*

• *“...For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?” Psalm 56:9-13*

The last mention of tears...

• Revelation 21:4, *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

• That’s the awesome HOPE (expectation of future good) that we have in God! Let’s close in prayer.
