

“TEARS IN A BOTTLE”

Lesson 7 ☐ For week ending February 14, 2015

The shortest verse of scripture in the Bible is John 11:35 which says, "*Jesus wept*". This passage confirms to mankind that we were created in the image of God. Scripture does not indicate that angels weep, yet we humans can cry over anything! Ordinary tears can cleanse the eyes and wash out impurities, but tears of grace and suffering can cleanse the spirit. - **Deaconess Kimberly Combs**

KEY TEXT: “You number and record my wanderings; put my tears into your bottle—are they not in your book?” (Psalms 56:8 AMP)

1. God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:18). In the same way, we as parents long to see our prodigal children reconciled to the Heavenly Father and us. Rachel's heart was broken for her children to the point she could not be comforted (Jeremiah 31: 15). The Lord heard her cry and gave instruction and promise in regards to the children in Jeremiah 31: 16-17. Discuss the fact that the tears we shed for our children are in His bottle and written of in His Book.

• **II Corinthians 5:18**

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

• **Jeremiah 31:15**

15 This is what the Lord says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

• **Jeremiah 31:16-17**

16 This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the Lord. “They will return from the land of the enemy.

17 So there is hope for your descendants,” declares the Lord. “Your children will return to their own land.

2. Physically, tears cleanse our eyes from impurities and foreign matter; but it's the emotional and spiritual cleansing we receive from a "good ole cry" that somehow strengthens us to keep pushing forward (Psalms 6:6-9). Consider the bitter weeping of Jesus in (Hebrews 5:7). The reason why we cry can be very personal, but the strength and determination we receive from our tears can be a powerful testimony to others who struggle.

• **Psalms 6:6-9**

6 I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

7 My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

8 Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping.

9 The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

• **Hebrews 5:7**

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

3. The promises of God give us a "faith booster" that helps us endure the sorrowful and heart

wrenching times of our lives (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 7:17). The Holy Spirit was sent to us to be a Comforter: One who in fact does wipe the tears from our eyes as His gentle love washes over our spirit.

- **Isaiah 25:8**

8 He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.

- **Revelation 7:17**

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

4. Tears are a universal way to express every type of emotion we experience. So, enjoy your tears now and cry as much as you want, because one day all crying will cease (Revelation 21:4)!

- **Revelation 21:4**

4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'