“Righteous Heart-Ache”

Have you ever had heartache? Have you ever longed and hungered for something? Our old hearts long for many a thing in this world…. We want money… Cars… Homes… Material Things… The right Job… This & That… And all for nothing…

However, the heart still aches and aches…searching for something that would satisfy the void that we feel within…oh how un-quenchable it is…!

What the real problem is, is that we are avoiding the truth of the Word in our Lives…For God tells us in His Word what our hearts should ache for…when He said…”But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” - [Matthew](http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/righteous-heart-ache-tony-s-searles-sermon-on-evangelism-the-lost-37698.asp) 6:33

Let me ask you this… Why are you wandering and searching where you should not be wandering and searching? You know that you are seeking out things of YOUR own choosing and will, rather than what the Lord would have for you…

Then you…You wonder why you have no peace, when you should have it in Jesus Christ…

- You wonder why you haven’t been blessed, when He is a God of Blessing…

- You wonder why you feel as though God has forgotten you, when He says that He is a friend that sticks closer than any brother…

- Could it be that you have taken things into your own hands…?????

May I suggest to you today that maybe you have forgotten to heed a simple requirement, which God has instructed us to follow… “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” - Matthew 6:33

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN LIFE is this… “To seek FIRST the Kingdom of God & His Righteousness…”

The book of Psalms is the most loved and one of the best known parts of the Bible. Individual Psalms are popular with people who are not regular Bible readers, but also with those who wish to praise the God who they know and love.

They easily translate into today’s culture, despite being written long ago. The Old Testament for us needs to be understood in the light of the New Testament, so most Psalms can be used directly. They can be so easily applied to today’s Christian life. Hymn writers have been inspired so much from them.

Every psalm seems to have my name and address on it. It is the most human part of the Old Testament, which everyone can readily identify with. It was the hymn and prayer book of Israel in the Old Testament.

Jonah actually prayed from inside the whale, he said he was praying from Sheol, the world of departed spirits and quoted five different psalms in that prayer. Habakkuk quotes from three psalms in his prophecy.

All psalms are poetic in structure and are used to express things, they should be read, re-read, meditated upon to let them sink in.

The word Psalm means to ‘pluck’ or ‘twang’, referencing to the stringed instruments that were used to accompany the singing of psalms. In Hebrew the book is called Tenillim – which means ‘Songs of Praise’, the word ‘Jew’ comes from Judah, which means ‘praise’.

Psalms can express a wide range of emotions. Psalm 56 says God ‘puts our tears into His bottle’. When Jewish people wanted to express sympathy at the death of someone they loved they didn’t send flowers or wreaths to the funeral, instead they had glass bottles about 4” high which they would hold under their eyes and weep into. They would then send them to the person who was bereaved. This psalm tells us that God does the same for us, even when our tears aren’t nearly as serious as death.

The other emotions covered are joy, peace, hope, love and also negative ones such as anger, frustration, jealousy, despair, fear and envy. There are also ‘please psalms’, ‘thank you’ psalms and ‘sorry’ psalms.

Psalms are for everyone to use not just priests. There is an almost complete absence of altars, priests, vestments and incense in the psalms. In psalm 84 the writer, David, longed to get away from the bustling world to meet God inside His dwelling place, His Holy Temple.

We of course can meet God anywhere, at any time. But we know that going to church can help us step aside from the busy mainstream of life, so we can pray, meditate, and sing. We can find joy not only in the prayers, music and sermons, but also in the fellowshipping with other believers in a special place.

Psalm 27:4 says “the one thing I ask of the Lord, I seek most, is to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, delighting in the Lords perfections and meditating in His temple.

Psalm 84 is known as the pilgrims song. The pilgrim comes to Jerusalem for one of the great annual festivals. His heart sings for joy at the prospect of worshipping God in His temple. The happiest people in the world are – it seems to him are there, who can be there always.

Do we want to be in that place with God always, how much time do we spend with God in the word, prayer, even singing to Him?

Jack Hayford tells a story of a time when he was on-board a night flight to Heathrow from New York and as the sun was just starting to come up over the Atlantic ocean, there was a shaft of light coming through the plane window. It attracted his attention to two people, one was huddled on the floor and one was standing. Most of the other passengers were still asleep. But he saw these two men in the dawning light in the plane cabin, one kneeling on the floor and the other standing a few paces away.

The man on the floor was dressed in Arab garments and was a muslim and as he knelt on his prayer rug, he was aligning himself to worship as closely towards Mecca as his sense of direction in flight would allow.

The man standing nearby had on a Yarmulke, one of those small skull caps worn by orthodox conservative Jews. He quietly but fixedly, mouthed the words from his open prayer book and his head bobbed back and forward in rhythm and with a pattern revealing intensity. Worship was no option for either of these men, it was a necessity.

As with the two men on the plane, worship is central to Christians. We are summoned to worship with such a dimensional reverence and sensitivity to His glorious presence and power that a new dimension of responsiveness transforms us. Such a transformation via worship is an absolute necessity for every believer and each congregation who seek to serve God’s son Jesus today.

There is an awakening or a renewal of worship today, so what is it about. I can tell you what it isn’t about first.

It isn’t about music

It isn’t about becoming contemporary

It isn’t about cultural awareness

It isn’t about being ‘cool’ or ‘hip’

It isn’t about misty eyed intimacy with God

It isn’t about theological accuracy about God.

But it is and should be about:

The formation of hearts in the presence of God

It’s about the shaping of disciples who know Him through being with Him.

It’s about the transforming work the Holy Spirit achieves when pure worship occurs.

And it’s about preparation for the last battle.

It’s about seeking first the Kingdom of God

(3-4) David draws this beautiful image of sparrows and swallows, building their nests unobstructed and unashamed near the very altar of God as if they must be happy to be so near to God and to dwell at peace there.

He describes the happiness of those who are on their way to the place of public worship, their joy and strength of purpose as they approached the place – their happiness in appearing before God. Can I ask you this question???

He prays that he can approach God, that he might be allowed to spend a day there – for a day was better than a thousand elsewhere.

David was crying out for the living God himself – O that I might know Him and be in communion with Him.

(5-7) This psalm is about the pilgrimage to the Temple and it passed through the barren valley of weeping. The weeping is a reference to the times of struggles and tears through which people must pass on their way to meet God. Growing strong in God’s presence is often preceded by a journey through barren places in our lives.

The person who loves to spend time with God will see his or her adversity as an opportunity to experience God’s faithfulness even more deeply. If you are walking through your own valley of weeping today, be sure your pilgrimage leads towards God and not away from Him.

(5) The humble person, acknowledging his or her need for continuing growth, never develops an un-teachable spirit. So set your heart on pilgrimage. Humble yourself and accept that you will never “arrive”, that is, never stop needing to learn and grow.

Rely on God when confronted by any enemy. Rely on God whenever you are in any kind of distress. Rely on God in times of natural calamity. Rely on God in times of political crisis. Rely on God when confronted with sickness or physical weakness.

(7) Care should be taken to keep those roads in repair that lead to church/worship, that we would not be kept back by bad weather, bad ways, nor make an excuse to stay at home.

God has made a way to the heavenly city. We need to press forward in worship and in obedience so that as pilgrims we will journey and complete it to end up in the arms of our loving Saviour.

(11) God doesn’t promise to give us everything we think is good, but He will not withhold what is permanently good. He will give us the means to walk along His paths, but we must activate our faith and do the walking. When we obey Him, He will not withhold anything that will help us to serve Him.

Those two men on the plane unfortunately represent something about a dramatic confrontation shaping up today – a confrontation between the age long struggle between the laws of God and the lawlessness of men.

We are at a time which is unquestionably the most decisive in history, when everything is being shaken, from world governments, banking systems, the press, world economies and the environment. We are seeing one last great shake up.

Hebrews 12:25-29

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape, those who refused him that spoke on earth, much more we shall not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from Heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will not only shake the earth, but also the heavens." And this word, "Yet once more," signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for also, "Our God is a consuming fire."

In the final analysis, both men manifested convictions about worship, a consistency at worship and a boldness in worship that excels the average Christian.

Even for many of us who do worship, convictions, consistency and boldness are a mixed bag. There is a frightening reality to the fact that does not bode well for the church, unless the reformation of worship advances to deeper levels in our hearts, our homes and our churches.

These two men gave themselves unashamedly to worship, their convictions were fixed, that the worship of their God calls for more than thoughts about worship or expression until either could get into a formal gathering with others at a synagogue or a mosque. They worshipped where they were – dedicating their day to their deity.

This isn’t the average Christians style. We have been lulled into notions of grace that refuse to let the Holy Spirit teach us life giving principles, laws if you will, for worship.

Will the gospel of Christ be advanced or will it be forced to retreat in this day, as the anti-Christ spirit driving global Islam gains momentum?

Will the existence of Israel and global Jewry face another holocaust at this season, when world-wide anti-semitism is on the rise and Christians are being called to take a position for or against Israel?

Worship determines outcomes. God is not interested in what we are, as he is in what we are becoming.

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