

=BIBLE PROMISES=

Lesson 10

Bible Promises About Sorrow

AIM: to teach my pupils about sorrow and that Jesus is the great Victor over sorrow as He is over every other ill.

POINT OF CONTACT: Think about some events in your life that have made you sad. Did you need comfort and help during these events? To whom did you go for comfort and help? Was that comfort and help completely satisfying?

INTRODUCTION: We all have to admit that there are many times in our lives when we have experienced sorrow. Sorrow has been caused not only by the passing of a loved one but also many other different sets of circumstances. With the sin of Adam and Eve, sorrow came into the world, Genesis 3:16, 17. Everyone experiences sorrow in one form or another. Does God do anything for us or to us that would ease the pain or bring compensation for our sorrow? Sorrow has an unbalancing influence upon our lives. For the period of time when the sorrow is fresh and new, it seems as if we are completely enveloped by it—a kind of unbalanced condition exists in our lives. The even keel of our ship of life has been upset by the force of the sorrow.

In our lesson for this week, we will discuss four different kinds of sorrow which come into our lives. Our lesson will also include promises and instructions which God has given concerning our sorrows.

I. THE SORROW FOR PERSONAL SIN.

1. This could be an ungodly sorrow.
 - 1) The description of this sorrow: Ungodly sorrow causes the sinner to resolve to be smarter and more careful next time! It is a remorse which comes only because of the suffering by the consequences of the sin committed.
 - 2) The result of this sorrow: It causes death, II Corinthians 7:10b.
2. It can be a godly sorrow which comes before salvation.
 - 1) The sorrow may be great or small, prolonged or momentary. The extent of the sorrow would be determined not necessarily by the degree of the sin but by the sensitivity of the heart of the person who has been made sorrowful for his sin.
 - 2) It causes repentance, II Corinthians 7:5-10. To repent is to be sorry for the sin or the sinful state—sorry enough to resolve to change the course of life.
 - 3) It follows through to the remission of sins. His sins are separated from him—they are remitted, Hebrews 9:22, 28. The truly repentant person has his sins transferred from him to Jesus. The promise to the unsaved person who is sorrowing because of his sin is the promise which we learned in John 5:24. (Review this promise.) Jesus was willing to have the sins of everybody placed upon Him, as if He had committed them, so that His blood could cover them all. In order to have His blood applied to individual people, they who have committed sin have to accept Jesus as their own personal Saviour, their “Substitute.”
3. It can be a godly sorrow which comes before periodic cleansing for the Christian.
 - 1) The Christian needs periodic cleansing from sin. He has not reached the sinless state on earth; therefore, he still commits sin. He is a liar if he does not admit this, I John 1:8, 10. Each time he sins, he does not go into a lost condition again, but he has broken fellowship with Jesus. It is thus necessary for the Christian to confess his sin each time he does sin. The blood of Jesus keeps on cleansing him from sin, I John 1:9.
 - 2) King David, although saved, needed cleansing from his sin, Psalm 51. He needed the joy of his salvation restored to him; joy would replace his sorrow for sin.

II. THE SORROW THAT IS CAUSED BY BEING FORSAKEN.

1. Friends and family have forsaken others because of fear, pride, lack of conviction.
 - 1) Job’s friends, family and acquaintances forsook him. Job knew that they abhorred him during the times of his trials, Job 19:14-19. Job was not attractive physically at that time, nor did he have any material possessions which could help to make them comfortable and cause them to enjoy his presence.

- 2) Friends and co-workers forsook Paul, II Timothy 1:15; 4:10, 16. The comforts and advantages of the world were too attractive to Demas for him to stay with Paul in his conditions of persecution. At the first sign of trouble, others failed him.
 - 3) The disciples forsook Jesus. They ran away from Him, Matthew 26:56; John 16:32. Jesus was being scourged, judged and then crucified. The men who had served with Him could not resist the urge to run away from the trouble that might have come to them if they had stood by Him.
2. God comforts and aids in times of lonely sorrow. He fills in the empty gaps.
- 1) He is the source of strength to the cast-down person who looks to Him. He gave strength to Paul, II Timothy 4:17, 18. (Review the promise which is found in Isaiah 40:31.)
 - 2) He is ever alert to watch over the discouraged person; He never sleeps. (Review His promise never to let the foot of any of His children slip from His grasp, Psalm 121:3.) He sends evidence of His care. He caused Paul to be comforted, II Timothy 1:16-18; Job's end was as good as his beginning, Job 42:10. His love is never removed by any problem, Romans 8:38, 39. Paul and Job, by the way, both prayed God's blessing upon those who had left them.
 - 3) Jesus knew the presence of the Father through His trials and crucifixion. Jesus had to be forsaken of the Father when the sins of the world were actually placed upon Him. The rest of the time the Father was close, and Jesus talked with Him and drew strength and help from Him. Now that Jesus has become victorious over sin and death, He can keep His promise never to forsake us, Hebrews 13:5, 6.

III. THE SORROW THAT IS CAUSED BY CONCERN FOR OTHERS.

1. This sorrow precedes the salvation of those for whom we are concerned.
 - 1) The Psalmist paints the sower of the seeds with tears on his face, Psalm 126:5, 6. God's Word is compared to seed, and the person who gives the Gospel is compared to the sower, Mark 4:14-20.
 - 2) Paul said that he wept over the sinful condition of the Christians, II Corinthians 2:1-5.
2. The sorrow for others' lost or backslidden condition will be changed to joy.
 - 1) The promise concerning the weeping sower is that he will see people saved as a result of his sowing in tears, Psalm 126:6.
 - 2) Paul experienced joy over the repentance of the Corinthians. His grief was turned to joy and a sweet savour because they were grieved for their sins, II Corinthians 2:2.

IV. THE SORROW OF SEPARATION, John 13:33-38; 14.

1. Jesus prepared His disciples for this sorrow.
 - 1) He told them that He was going to leave them. He told them that they could not follow Him then, but that they could afterwards.
 - 2) He heard their objections to this news. Being separated from Jesus was upsetting news to the disciples. They wanted to stay with Him always. They wanted to know where He was going and what route He would take to get there. (The prospect of being separated from loved ones is always upsetting.)
 - 3) He told them of a Person Who would take the place of His physical presence in their lives. Jesus told His disciples of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, Who would come and abide in them. The Holy Spirit would help them to remember all the words which Jesus had spoken to them. He would instruct them.
 - 4) He told them of an antidote which He would leave with them for their disturbed state of mind. Just as a doctor would say upon leaving the patient after making a house call, "I am going to leave a few pills for you to take; take one every four hours, and you will be all right." Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you...Let not your heart be troubled." Jesus was demonstrating His great stabilizing power in the face of disturbing events.
2. Jesus instructed His disciples concerning their attitude toward this sorrow.

- 1) He told them that instead of being sad, they should be rejoicing. He caused them to examine their love for Him. He said that if they really loved Him, they would be glad for His sake that He was going to be able to return to the Father.
- 2) He told them that they should trust Him. They should understand that He was merely going on to get a place ready for them. Whenever He would be ready for each one to come, He would receive him unto Himself, John 14:3. (As Stephen was dying, he told those present that he saw Jesus standing, welcoming him to Heaven, Acts 7:55, 56.)
3. The attitude of all Christians is to be hopeful, too.
 - 1) Our mourning for departed Christians is not to be like the mourning of non-Christians, I Thessalonians 4:13. We have a hope which is not possessed by non-Christians. Even though sadness at the time of a loved one's passing is a normal reaction, still we are to remember the promises concerning the death of a Christian. Christians who have died are with Jesus, II Corinthians 5:8.
 - 2) In the absence of others, we are to carry on the work that Jesus has given us. We are not to stop our activities, even when the Lord sees fit to call Home someone who is near to us. Those who have gone before have joined the great throng that is in the grandstands observing the activities that the Lord has given us. Their "playing days" on earth have ended; now they have passed the uniforms and the balls on to the next players. Because they know the rules of the game, they know how it should be played, and they know the handicaps; therefore, they probably cheer whenever a goal is reached. If we have really loved those who have gone before, we have to be glad that they are in Heaven because that state is so much better for them. We are children of the King, and some of us just have to go Home before others of us. We'll join them soon!

CONCLUSION: Sorrow need not consume the Christian nor cause his life and mind to be thrown off balance. Jesus is a great fortress; and His words, recalled to mind by the Comforter, are the great stabilizers. Christians possess a Person Who, in every way, can overcome for them the curse of sin—including sorrow.