



Pointes to Ponder

For Crying Out Loud!

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NASB95)

I've had many occasions in my life to cry. Now the world is full of crying and you surely can't remember but it was certainly the first thing you ever did, and for some perhaps the last. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet wrote an entire book of the bible about this, only he and we call them laments. Since they are included in scripture tells us that sometimes our cries are appropriate. But not all the time. But sometimes, yes. And in this time, yes.

One time of crying that I remember was not one like when a dad tries to hide a stray tear at the movies or when he feels the whelm of indescribable joy in his heart for his child. This one was a plea for help. It seemed hopeless. I was literally crying. Grieving. But to God, and in prayer.

These recent days of being ordered to stay at home, of being apart from loved ones in the body of Christ, if we are honest do not get easier. In fact, as Pastor Jim and I have discussed there is a very real battle that happens each week. It is a fight for motivation to come to the building on Sunday when we know full well that the Church, Christ's beautiful bride will not be there. We know full well, that the church cannot be stopped, even if not allowed to meet in large groups. We also trust completely in the revelation of God's will through the proclamation of His word to transform His people, nothing less, nothing more. And we know that as Americans we are blessed with earthy blessings so much more than the majority of the world. But none of these seem to be able to wash the grief away.

The Psalms understand this. The authors give us a glimpse of human reality that is rarely communicated. There are times when nothing seems to go right. Nothing according to plan. Everything far from normal. And they cry. They cry out to God with a *loud* voice. For mercy. For relief. For protection. For help. And they usually end up where the author of Hebrews guides us; to confidence in the sympathetic ear of our Great High Priest, Jesus himself.

If ever a time of need, if ever the need for help against temptation, if ever a cry for mercy was appropriate, no matter what you are struggling with, now is that time. In those times when I have cried out to the Lord, without exception the grief is lightened immediately. This happens even when circumstances have not changed. But only when the solution is left completely to Him. So cry! Lift up your voice! Do so with confidence in the One who also intercedes for you at that Grace throne. Jesus has greater sympathy for the weakest weakness that we can know in this temporary situation. And only through Him will we receive the grace and mercy that we need so much.

Crying out to see EastPointe gathered again soon,
Pastor Keith