

"GOD'S BROKEN HEART"

DR. ROY O. McCLAIN

THE BAPTIST HOUR

November 28, 1954

Just outside the city of Jerusalem Jesus sat weeping. The tears flowed because of the people who were breaking the heart of God. Hear Him saying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings and you would not!"

Today in our Jerusalem many are breaking God's heart. It may seem ridiculous to some to say that God could grieve, but because He loved us, He limited himself—he made possible pain and grief. When love is spurned, the heart will yearn and grieve.

OUR DISTRACTING ANXIETIES

One of the things which grieves God is our distracting anxiety: the puny fretting, the aggravating worries about tomorrow. God has promised infinite care and provision. He says that even the hairs of our heads are numbered, that not a sparrow falls to the ground without His knowing. He exhorts us to look at the lilies of the field, the fowls of the air, the grass of the meadow and be convinced that man is more important than all of these.

Nonetheless, many Christians live in such a way that they do not believe a single line of this truth. We say, "Oh I know that is true—but." And therein is the contradiction of faith. There is no difficulty in believing that God did all right by us yesterday, but the uncertainty of tomorrow breeds fear and anxiety.

Some are thinking: But our tomorrows look dark, war looms over us as a dark cloud, old age and insecurity are knocking on the door, the unknown factor of health—why not be distracted? These are the questions which the pagans ask, not the children of the household of faith. In the heart of the genuine Christian there is no room for worry—ever!

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. Paul so confidently knew, "that my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19).

A seventh-grade lad, all bent over his arithmetic, just couldn't get the right answer. He figured and figured yet it would not work out right. A visitor in the class that day asked, "Would you like me to help you?" The little fellow asked, "Do you know the answer?" The visitor that day was Albert Einstein. Sometimes we are like the seventh-grade boy trying to work out life's problems and God stands beside us saying, "Let me help you with tomorrow's arithmetic." Be not distracted about tomorrow. Because anxiety will break God's heart.

OUR SECRET SINS

Moreover, our secret sins will break his heart. The hope of God is to redeem us from all sin: the sins that degrade, the sins that obsess, the sins that cost us life here and hereafter. The blood of Jesus was shed to cleanse all our sins; yet, man insists on keeping his pet iniquities. Most times it is covered from the eyes of the world, the world takes him as a fine and respectable fellow. Yet, it does not escape the eye of God and God, loving him as his son, grieves.

Secret sins are like malignancy in the flesh—the outside of the body appears robust, none suspects the slightest illness; still deep inside the war of life and death is being fought in the corpuscles. Finally, that which seemed so trivial, so petty, too small to hurt anybody, takes the whole life. Friends, you can never know the peace of God inside so long as you nurse that secret sin. You know what yours is and because one differs from the other doesn't ease the nature of the guilt. Satan moves along the line of least resistance to claim God's children for himself. These are the blockades to spiritual growth. The Church of Jesus Christ is populated by too many who break the heart of God because of secret sins. Many would never be guilty of base and vulgar sins, the obvious, crude type of transgression. Still, the sins may be pride, avarice, slander, malice, greed, envy, spirit of self-righteous.

Actually, these are worse than murder! They are more injurious to the

kingdom than theft. A drunkard is easily detected in the company of the saints and all society will frown on his condition; but an unforgiving spirit may sit in the high seats of the temple and get by under the guise of respectability. Little wonder that God grieves.

SPURNING HIS SON AS SAVIOUR

There is another point at which God's heart is broken: when men refuse to accept his Son as Saviour. "He came unto his own and his own received him not." That tragic process is going on even in this day—a day that has its own grandiose schemes for saving itself, a day of bewilderment, of confusion and endless strife.

Modern Jerusalem, killing the prophets of God, godless atheism saying there is no God, Christless communism crying that God is excess baggage, well-informed, plentifully prospered, thankless people ignoring the one door of hope in a world of chaos. Had there been another way of salvation, then Christ died in vain. There is no other way: a truth worn slick by pronouncement but a truth as fresh as the sunlight. And stubborn, persistent refusal to believe and accept will break our Father's heart.

The worst attitude of our day is to show kind deference to the church, to say that He was the Son of God, that He was the greatest teacher who ever lived, and stop it at that. To ignore the distinctive role for which He lived and died is to ignore all. He did not come to out-think Socrates, to out-shine Confucius, he did not die to be just a martyr, but He was God in human flesh, taking upon Himself the sins of the world, a lamb before a slaughter opening not His mouth, a "man of sorrows acquainted with grief, bearing the sins of the whole world for us all."

He never fought in any army, yet more men have marched on his behalf than followed, Hannibal, Caesar or Stalin. He never wrote a song, yet

more music extols his life and death than all others combined. He is the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star, the fairest of ten thousand to my soul—and to ignore him as Saviour is to break His Father's heart.

The price He paid is sufficient for all sins and sinners. Down in the gutter of despair with unpreached hands for help, he can save that kind. He can save the alcoholic, the prostitute, the criminal, the outcast and the great unwashed, the up-and-outs, the self-sufficient, the indifferent, the calloused, the impotent. He can save us all. The black and white, the Jew and Gentile, Barbarian and Scythian, male and female, bond and free, young and old, rich and poor, sick and well. Let the church come back to this simple biblical principle, come back from its excursions through salve and syrup, come back from its worldly schemes and reasoning reformations, come to its knees before the son of God and find there its own new birth.

Recently Dr. McCloud, on the British Broadcasting Company, told of a minister who observed a young lad every day at noon who went into the church, knelt and prayed a brief prayer, then left. That continued each day so regularly and so briefly until the minister stopped the boy one day and asked, "Son, why do you just rush in, stay a moment and leave?" The lad said, "Sir I have 30 minutes for lunch, and I rush in, say my prayer and hurry back to work." "What do you say when you pray?" The lad answered, "I say, Jesus, it is Jimmy." A few weeks later the same minister stood beside the bed of a dying boy and he vows that he heard a voice saying, "Jimmy, it is Jesus."

And now won't you kneel where you are and say, "God I have broken your heart long enough, now I surrender my life and all to thee, take me as I am and make me as I ought to be."

This sermon leaflet is free. If, however, you wish to help defray the cost of printing, send your contribution to: THE BAPTIST HOUR, P.O. Box 12157, Fort Worth 16, Texas.

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

P. O. Box 12157

Fort Worth 16, Texas

REV. PAUL M. STEVENS — Director