

SILVER DAWNS BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to attend this year's SILVER DAWNS BIBLE STUDY. For many years, Pastor Mike Coppersmith has taught this Bible Study on Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. during the months of November through March. We have a large and energetic group attending each week. The Bible Study is fascinating, the discussion is stimulating, the lessons are very practical, the refreshments are good, and the impact on your faith is powerful!

This year's study is entitled "THE PARABLES OF JESUS" and will look at *Life Lessons from the Lips of Jesus* found in the New Testament Gospels. Here are some of the titles of the studies Pastor Mike has prepared:

The Seed and the Soil
 The Work of the Enemy
 The People of the Kingdom
 The Workers in the Vineyard
 Consummation of the King

Lost and Found
 Two Men Visited Church
 The Shrewd Manager
 The Tale of Two Sons
 On Not Giving Up

The Rich Fool
 The Good Samaritan
 On Being Thankful
 The Ten Virgins
 Lessons of the Lamp

Pastor Mike's Silver Dawns Bible Study meets on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and meets in the Fellowship Center each Friday through March. This class is designed in such a way that you can start anytime and attend for whatever weeks you are able to do so. Join us as we learn these *Life-Changing Lessons from the Lips of Jesus!*

THE SUM OF ALL TEARS An Ash Wednesday Message

Ash Wednesday
February 25, 2009

INTRODUCTION

I. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF TEARS

Genesis 23:2

...Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to **weep** over her.

1 Samuel 1:10

In bitterness of soul Hannah **wept** much and prayed to the LORD.

Psalms 137:1-3

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and **wept** when we remembered Zion. 2 There on the poplars we hung our harps, 3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

Luke 7:37-38

When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38 and as she stood behind him at his feet **weeping**, she began to wet his feet with **her tears**.

John 20:11

...but Mary stood outside the tomb **crying**. As she **wept**, she bent over to look into the tomb.

Acts 20:19

I served the Lord with great humility and with **tears**...

II. JESUS CHRIST KNEW ALL ABOUT TEARS

Luke 13:34

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

John 11:35

Jesus **wept**.

Hebrews 5:7

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

Psalms 56:8 (NKJV)

You put my **tears** into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

III. TEARS ARE A SIGN OF LONGING—GOD'S LONGING FOR US

Jeremiah 14:17

Let my eyes overflow with **tears** night and day without ceasing; for my virgin daughter — my people — has suffered a grievous wound, a crushing blow.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (RSV)

Surely he **has borne our griefs** and **carried our sorrows**...he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and by his wounds we are healed.

Ephesians 4:30-32

And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

IV. TEARS ARE A SIGN OF LONGING—OUR LONGING FOR GOD

Joel 2:12-13

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and **weeping** and mourning.¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love...”

William A. Ward

We should be thankful for our tears. They prepare us for a clearer vision of God.

Revelation 5:4-6

I **wept and wept** because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 **Then I saw a Lamb**, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne...

Revelation 7:17

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.

IN CLOSING

St. Augustine:

He who has Christ has everything. He who has everything, but does not have Christ, has nothing. And he who has everything plus Christ has nothing more than he who has Christ alone.