

For Everything There Is a Season, Part 9
Time to Weep. Laugh, Mourn, and Dance
October 16, 2016

I **SLIDE** Ecclesiastes 3:4

A) **Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 (NIV)** ¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

B) Remember, these come in opposite pairs

1) Thus, weep is the opposite of laugh and vice versa

2) Mourn and dance are opposites

3) As with the other verses, we cannot use our definitions of these words to understand God's seasons

C) **SLIDE** Definitions

1) Weep

a) Bitter, intense weeping

b) Sinner's weeping before the LORD

c) Weep, wail because of grief, pain, humiliation or joy

d) The reason behind the weeping is the key

2) **SLIDE** Causes of weeping

a) Weeping in response to something sorrowful vs. weeping in response to something good

i) **John 11:33-35 (NIV)** ³³ When Jesus saw her [Mary] weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

ii) Michael Watkins weeping when he was baptized

iii) Jews wept when they returned to Jerusalem

b) **SLIDE** Weeping that stems from true repentance vs. weeping that stems from sorrow but not repentance

i) **Matthew 26:74-75 (NIV)** ⁷⁴ Then he [Peter] began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know

the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- ii) **SLIDE Deuteronomy 1:42-45 (NIV)** ⁴² But the LORD said to me, "Tell them, 'Do not go up and fight, because I will not be with you. You will be defeated by your enemies.'" ⁴³ So I told you, but you would not listen. You rebelled against the LORD's command and in your arrogance you marched up into the hill country. ⁴⁴ The Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you; they chased you like a swarm of bees and beat you down from Seir all the way to Hormah. ⁴⁵ You came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you.

3) The difference

- a) Weeping because of repentance results in salvation
- b) Weeping because of sorrow results in excuses
- c) We are seeing a lot of weeping in this nation but it is not from repentance
- d) We need to pray that a time of weeping because of repentance sweep this nation

D) **SLIDE** Time to laugh

- 1) Like the verb for "weep," this verb also has a positive and negative meaning
- 2) Laugh
 - a) To rejoice; a strong expression of joy and celebration
 - b) To ridicule or mock another
 - c) In one instance I am laughing with you; in the other I am laughing at you
- 3) **SLIDE** True joy and laughter can only be found in Jesus Christ
 - a) Think of the birth of a child
 - b) Being married to your true soul mate
 - c) Salvation and Baptism

- d) Fellowship picnic
 - e) This laughter comes from the inside and not the outside
 - f) We do not laugh at someone else; we laugh because of the joy in our hearts
- 4) **SLIDE** On the other hand, there is a season ...
- a) when laughter stems from ridiculing or mocking others
 - b) **Luke 22:63 (NIV)** The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.
 - c) when laughter stems from coarse, vulgar words or situations
 - d) Larry Lessing
 - i) American Academic, attorney, political activist, Stanford University professor and one-time advisor to Pres. Obama
 - ii) Includes in his lecture a video of a 'gay' Jesus Christ sashaying nearly naked down a city street to the tune of "I Will Survive," only to get run over by a bus.
- 5) **SLIDE** I believe we are in this season of ungodly laughter
- a) Laughter does not stem from joy but from vulgarity
 - b) It does not stem from the happiness in our lives but from the ridiculing of others, including Jesus Christ
 - c) Laughter has become an idol as we sacrifice other people's dignity for our amusement
 - d) Compare Andy Griffith to the comedy shows of today
 - e) Compare Johnny Carson to Comedy Central
 - f) The news is filled with people laughing at Trump and at Clinton
 - g) Such laughter is a sign of the state of our hearts
- 6) **SLIDE** Which should cause us to mourn over the condition of this nation
- a) Mourn means to lament - Passionate expression of grief or sorrow
 - b) Think of lamentations
- 7) Yet, we do not lose faith because there is also a time to dance
- a) Mourn and dance do not seem to be opposites
 - b) However, dance in this context means to leap and skip

- c) This dancing is a response to God's presence, redemption, grace, mercy, and restoration
- d) **SLIDE Malachi 4:2 (CJB)** ² But to you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will break out leaping, like calves released from the stall.
- e) **Video of calf**
- f) **SLIDE 1 Chronicles 15:29 (NIV)** ²⁹ As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David dancing and celebrating, she despised him in her heart.
- E) We may be in a season of weeping and mourning over the condition of this nation, but that season will pass
 - 1) We will probably mourn for a while longer
 - 2) But the season to dance will follow
 - 3) David mourned the loss of the Ark of the Covenant
 - 4) When he danced, he danced from the heart
 - 5) That is what we have to look forward to.
- F) Rededication
 - 1) Time to weep and a time to laugh
 - 2) Time of weeping from repentance is followed by a time of laughing and rejoicing

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