

Lenten Series: Sounds of the Passion—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN—Wed. 3/2/05

Theme: Our Lenten goal is not to feel bad but to feel sorry leading to faith and life.

Text: **Matthew 27: 19, 24,25 and 2 Corinthians 7: 10**

Intro: *Ills.: Conscience Fund*

We all handle sorrow over our sins in different ways

1. Sometimes sorrow can be very destructive when it is done without Jesus
 1. **Internalized fear** over doing the wrong thing (*Pilate's wife —suffered much*)
 2. **Fake sorrow** (attrition) in which we try to blame others (*Pilate washing hands*)
 3. **Codependent sorrow** —dragging others into remorse so feel better (People/children)
2. Sorrow is part of a humble relief value built into us by God
 1. To offload hurt of loss (*Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted*)
 2. **Ills.: The color of mourning**
 3. To offload the guilt of sin (*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. Jam 4: 8-10*)

Truly sorry rather sorry we got caught

3. **Read 2 Corinthians 7: 10**
4. Worldly sorrow over our sins brings no relieve but only plunges us deeper into it
 1. **Ills.: People Pay to Cry**
 2. Being sorry is not the goal but repenting without regret leading to salvation
5. God's promise to all who truly change their mind (repent) so he can change their heart
 1. *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Ps 34:18*
 2. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1: 9*
 3. *"I have seen his ways, but I will heal him, I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners. Is 57: 18*

People Pay to Cry

One of the most popular bars in the Chinese city of Nanjing sports only a sofa, a few tables, and tissues—a lot of tissues. The AFP news service reports that the city's first "cry bar," where customers can sit and cry for \$6 per hour, is growing in popularity. Owner Luo Jun says he opened the bar when clients of his last business said they often wanted to cry but didn't know when or where it would be appropriate to do so. **Citation:** Van Morris, Mt. Washington, Kentucky; source: "Quick Takes," *World magazine* (7-31-04)

The Color of Mourning

A friend, mourning the death of her father, had stopped in to visit me. The woman's black attire grabbed the attention of our small daughter, who wanted to know the reason for the outfit. "She just lost her father," I replied. She then asked, "Does she have to wear black until she finds him again?" **Citation:** B. Goldberg, Salford, England. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."

Conscience Fund

Max Lucado, in his book *Six Hours One Friday*, tells how the U.S. government in 1811 began collecting and storing letters like the following note dated February 6, 1974: "I am sending ten dollars for blankets I stole while in World War II. My mind could not rest. Sorry I'm late." It was signed: an ex-GI. And there was this postscript: "I want to be ready to meet with God." The U.S. government not only collects and stores these letters, but the Treasury Department established a fund and labeled it the "Conscience Fund." Since its inception, the fund has grown to almost seven million dollars. ***Citation: Max Lucado, Six Hours One Friday p. 79; submitted by Aaron Goerner, Utica, New York***
Matthew 27: 19, 24, 25

¹⁹While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

2 Cor. 7:10

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.