**A Time to weep**  dkm Oct 21

‘A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance’ (Eccl 3:4). Is today a time to weep or a time to laugh? Jesus did a lot of weeping. He wept at the grave of Lazarus. He lamented over the city of Jerusalem, knowing that it would soon be judged and destroyed. Should we not be lamenting the sins of our city? Do we not live in one of the most sinful cities on the planet? Not sure about the sins of our city? Read on!

If you hate sin as God hates sin you should be weeping over the sins of this city. ‘Streams of tears flow from my eyes for your [God’s] law is not obeyed’ (Psalm 119:136). This man loved God and his holy law so much that he hated to see God’s law being broken. What about you?

Ezekiel the prophet lived in a day when temple prostitution was the way to worship man-made fertility gods. When the people turned away from God many social evils entered society- everyone was corrupt with widespread dishonesty and bribery, and the rich oppressed the poor and the weak, including children. Ezekiel, like God, was horrified at the wickedness he saw in his city. He called upon the people to ‘sigh and cry over the abominations done’ within the city of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 9:4). He wept over Jerusalem not long before it was destroyed by the Babylonians, just as Jesus wept over Jerusalem not long it was destroyed by the Romans. So what is the future for our city?

Even as we continue to be ravaged by coronavirus, some want to make a law allowing doctors to kill a person that someone has decided should no longer live. I read that a proposed bill refers to ‘voluntary assisted dying’ rather euthanasia or death with dignity; did someone realise that there is no dignity in death? ‘Voluntary assisted dying’ cleverly distances relatives and the doctor, who ultimately make the decision to kill the person. Jesus, who wept over death, did of course, bring victory over death in his resurrection.

Not long ago I was present when Mickey was euthanized. Mickey was old and sick- he spent all night coughing. Mickey had lost most of his teeth so had trouble eating. He was losing weight rapidly. I was there looking into Mickey’s eyes when they glazed over and he dropped dead, seconds after the vet gave him the death needle. A truck came along and winched Mickey aboard to take him where dead horses are taken. Yes, Mickey was a horse!

Do you want to be treated like a horse or dog when you get old? What about you mother or father? Surely there is a sanctity about human life, a life made in the image of God. Are you weeping with old people in our society who fear being ‘put down’ like a horse or a dog after our parliament makes it legal to murder old and frail people?

Are you weeping with the unborn, with babies being ripped out of the womb, dead or alive? Does an unborn child cry? They certainly do the moment they are born! Our society allows this child to be murdered inside the womb just weeks before he or she lets out that heart-wrenching cry at birth. Please weep for the thousands of precious lives being snuffed out by abortion in our land.

Sigh and cry at all the detestable things being done in our society. I have no space left to tell about other detestable things, like disregard for the sanctity of marriage. Let streams of tears run down your face as you see the deliberate disregard for God’s holy law in these detestable acts within our ‘civilised’ society. And do remember what happened shortly after Ezekiel, and Jesus himself, wept over the detestable things being done in the city where they lived.

Perhaps we should all begin by looking into our own hearts and lives. The Bible tells us to weep, mourn and lament because of our sin (James 4:7-10). It is pride that makes people reject God and his law, and listen to the devil. So if you, ‘humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up’. If you, ‘draw near to God he will draw near to you’. Cry to the Lord for mercy, and see the Lord ‘turn your mourning into dancing’ (Psalm 30:11).