



3 APR 2022 | PS JOACHIM TAN | THE TEARS OF GOD | HEBREWS 5:7,  
ISAIAH 53:3, LUKE 22:39-44, LUKE 19:41-44

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that God desires us be a church and people that positions ourselves, to be drenched by the tears of Jesus.
2. Be challenged to discover God's tears for themselves and position themselves to become God's channel of love wherever they are.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Catching the heart of God for Missions is just as important as getting involved in missions and reaching the nations. Have our hearts caught up with the very heart of God? We serve a God who grieves for His lost children. Have we been drenched by His tears and by what pains His heart as we see painful world events unfolding before us? How can we position ourselves to be drenched by God's tears?

## SERMON RECAP

### 1. The Grieving God

- Have we ever been found in a place where we have been drenched by the tears of God, the tears of heaven?
- We serve a heartbroken God who grieves for His people. In fact, God outweeps His people!
- In Hebrews 5:7, we read while Jesus was on earth, he often offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears. In [Isaiah 53:3](#), we read that Jesus was familiar with grief and sorrows.
  - The Greek meaning of the words "fervent cries" indicates a "cry birthed out of pure pain and anguish". It is a cry that is "rung out" of a person because of the state of pain the person is in.
- *"If you are ever tempted to think that God doesn't care about your sorrow and your suffering, you don't know the God I know."* – **Skip Heitzig**

### 2. The Occasions Jesus Wept In The Gospels

- Jesus wept for a sinful, fallen world at the Garden of Gethsemane ([Luke 22:39-44](#)).

- Gethsemane means “Olive press”. It was the place where Olives were being crushed or pressed to produce olive oil. Here, Jesus was in the “garden of crushing, of pressing”. To the point sweat like drops of blood began to flow and fall to the ground.
  - Jesus agonized as the entire weight of the world was placed on him. He agonized with utter distress for the prospect of bearing the sins of all mankind.
  - The garden was a place of agony and pain, but the garden was also a place of great intercession and prayer. Are you in a garden of pressing today? This is also the time to start praying.
- Jesus wept for the City of Jerusalem ([Luke 19:41-44](#)).
    - The way Jesus wept for the city of Jerusalem was different from the way he wept for His friends (at the tomb where Lazarus died in [John 11](#)).
    - In [John 11](#), the Greek word used means “to shed a tear with gentle emotions involved.”
    - In [Luke 19](#), Luke used a far stronger word to describe the pain and grief Jesus felt. Luke used the strongest possible word here in [Luke 19](#) to describe the agony and the pain that stemmed from Jesus’ cries. The meaning of weeping in [Luke 19](#) was to “sob bitterly, uncontrollably”.
  - What was Jesus crying for?
    - Jesus wept for those who had rejected Him and who did not recognize him.
    - Jesus wept for the agony of a fallen and broken world.
    - Jesus wept for the judgement that was about to come upon Jerusalem (which happened in AD 70).

### 3. 3 Heartfelt questions Jesus is asking his church today

- Have we positioned ourselves to be drenched by the tears of God?
  - Are we close enough to Jesus to receive His heart, pain, anguish, and tears for the world and for His people? Can we feel His pulse and His heart? Or are we still far away from His heart?
  - A weeping God demands a weeping people. God wants His church to learn how to cry again; to weep over the sufferings and the pain of this fallen world.
  - *“It seems to me that the more I long for the coming of Christ, the more I long to see His kingdom extended, the more I shall weep when things go wrong, when I see Christ blasphemed, His cross trampled in the mire, and the devil’s kingdom established.” – Charles Spurgeon*
- Have we found our calling yet?
  - We find our calling when we find the tears of Jesus. When you find ourselves being drenched by the tears of God – that is where you find your calling.
    - E.g. Isaiah heard the voice of God calling “who shall we send and who will go for us?” Isaiah stood at the very place where he was drenched by the tears of heaven.
  - True miracles occur when the tears of God meet willing and surrendered lives.
  - Go where the tears are found!
  - What will you do, with the tears of Jesus?



#### 4. Conclusion

- God wants His church to learn how to weep over the sufferings and pain of this fallen world.
- Miracles and transformational change happen when we (the church) walks into dark places and go where Heaven's tears are found

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **We serve a weeping, grieving God. The gospels detail occasions of Jesus weeping (Luke 19:41-44, Luke 22:39-44) for the sufferings of people and a sinful world. When was the last time you felt the pain and anguish that God feels concerning His lost children? Share an occasion where you found yourself drenched by God's tears and what pains His heart.**

#### Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to share. Members may share about a specific occasion or time where they felt the heart of God and was drenched by His tears. For those who do not have such experience, leaders could ask how they feel about some of the painful events happening today (e.g. Ukraine-Russia war, poverty and hardship caused by COVID-19 in many countries etc.) and how they think God feels about these painful events.

#### Transition

Jesus still weeps for His people today. A weeping God demands a weeping people.

2. **God wants His church to learn how to weep over the sufferings and pain of this fallen world. For those who desire to discover their calling in life, Ps Joachim urged us to go where the tears are found. Are you close enough to Jesus to feel His pulse and His heart for the lost? How can we position ourselves to be drenched by God's tears and feel his heart regardless of where we are?**


#### Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question. Leaders can ask members to reflect on whether they are able to feel / catch God's heart for the lost and needy around them, or whether they are still far away from God to do so. Members can share what they can do to position themselves individually to catch God's heart and be drenched by His tears.

- For example, if you are a school teacher or counsellor; will you position yourself in a place where you find His tears flowing freely in the school/workplace? If you are in the marketplace, are you positioned among people who are poor and needy / rejected?

#### Transition

God's heart is for the lost and needy. He desires us (his church) to carry his heart for the lost as well.

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3. *“Change happens when we (the church) walk into dark places” – Steve Brown.* Ps Joachim shared how various initiatives by RiverLifers in 2021 (e.g. Missions From Home) had deeply impacted the poor and hungry in our neighbouring countries, helping them tide through the COVID-19 crisis. What can we do in 2022 to be a channel of God’s love to the lost and needy, both individually and as a cell?

#### Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question. Members can share practical steps they will take this year to serve the poor and needy / reach the lost in the community or overseas

- As individuals, we could start by giving generously, praying for the lost and needy or be intentional in meeting the needs of the poor / low wage workers amongst us
- As a cell, we could be involved in RLCares or RCS; or sign up for Missions from Home.

#### Closing

God longs to place His Church in a position where we will be drenched by His tears. Let us position ourselves to experience God’s tears, catch His heart for the lost, and be channels of God’s love wherever we are. True miracles occur when the tears of God meet willing and surrendered lives.

## WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

### 1. Sermon Application

- God to help us be a church and people that positions ourselves, to be drenched by the tears of Jesus.
- God to help us discover His tears and do something about them by e.g. placing ourselves in estates and homes of those in need, where we find the tears of God

### 2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God’s protection on our nation from the virus.
- Pray for God’s strength on our nurses and healthcare workers as they manage the influx of cases.

### 3. War in Ukraine

- Pray for Russia and Ukraine to enter into peace negotiations.
- Pray for the safety of all Ukrainians especially the churches there.
- Pray for a swift end to the invasion.

### 4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](https://rlc.sg/bulletin)

- Easter & Palm Sunday.** For the next two weekends, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday on 10 Apr and Easter Sunday on 17 Apr. Much like the times we live in now, Easter was an unexpected event. In fact, everything involving Jesus leading up to and at Easter was not what people expected, whether they were for or against Him. This Easter, we encourage you to reach out to your pre-believing family and friends, and invite them to our Unexpected Weekends. The e-invite can be downloaded via the link on screen ([rlc.sg/easter2022](https://rlc.sg/easter2022)), and we have a limited number of hardcopy flyers available outside Worship Centre that you can pick up each service.
- Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at [rlc.sg/serve](https://rlc.sg/serve) or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
- MegaLife Camp 2022.** Our Youth ministry, MegaLife, will be organising a camp for your teens from 18-20 June during the school holidays. You may sign up for your child online via this link ([rlc.sg/mlc2022](https://rlc.sg/mlc2022)), and make payment in-person at the camp booth at our Atrium after service today or next Sunday.
- Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our missions initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new missions website. ([rlc.sg/mfh](https://rlc.sg/mfh))
- RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
  - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: [rlc.sg/rcs2022](https://rlc.sg/rcs2022).
  - You can support the work of RCS by participating in our annual Family Movie Day. For instructions on how you can watch a movie this June holidays and stand for families visit this link [rlc.sg/rcsmovie](https://rlc.sg/rcsmovie).
  - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at [office@rcs.org.sg](mailto:office@rcs.org.sg).
  - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at [volunteer@rcs.org.sg](mailto:volunteer@rcs.org.sg).

6. **RiverLife Podcast.** We are excited to launch a new resource – The RiverLife Podcast on Spotify. The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! For a start, you will be able to catch up on all six sermons from our *Let The River Flow* sermon series. The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](https://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
7. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](https://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
8. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is now open for kids aged two and below from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday. **NO booking of tickets is required.** In order to protect the health of our little ones, parents, do refer to the updated guidelines in our [e-bulletin](#).
9. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
10. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
11. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

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### **Interbank Transfer**

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*  
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