

1 **Have a Good Cry!**

- Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

2 **Scripture**

- O my Comforter, in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the LORD?"
- "Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?" (Jeremiah 8:19b NIV)

3 **Scripture**

- "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." (Jeremiah 8:20 NIV)
- Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. (Jeremiah 8:21 NIV)
- Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? (Jeremiah 8:22a NIV)
- Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people? (Jeremiah 8:22b NIV)

4 **Introduction**

- How many here have ever heard the phrase, "Is there a doctor in the house?"
- If you've ever heard that line, you know the drill.
- You're filled with a rush of adrenaline. You look around the room to find out who in your vicinity has slumped to the floor.
- Maybe, if you work in the medical field, you feel that little voice inside say:
 - "You! Yes, you. Put up your hand. Offer to help."
 - Your medical expertise could make a difference."

5 **Introduction**

- Such an event happened to Dr. Darria Long Gillespie, a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and a board member of the American College of Emergency Medicine.
- One day, she and her husband were flying from Las Vegas to Boston when they heard the words, "Is there a doctor on board?"
- There on the plane was a gentleman in his 30s having a grand mal seizure in his seat.

6 **Introduction**

- His traveling companions didn't know him very well, and had no idea if he had a history of seizures or other medical conditions.
- She goes on to relate how she was able to stabilize the patient with the help of a paramedic and keep him stable until they landed.
- Then the man was whisked off the plane into a waiting ambulance.

7 **Judah**

- In Gilead, apparently no physician can be found.
- The prophet Jeremiah is mournfully calling for a doctor.
- It's not that someone near him is having a medical crisis.
- The patient's not even a person.
- It's a nation — his own nation of Judah.

8 Judah

- In Judah, all hell is breaking loose around him.
- After a brief and encouraging reform by the good King Josiah, the people of Judah are majorly backsliding.
- They are worshiping foreign gods and falling into all manner of immorality.

9 Jehoiakim

- But this is not the most alarming thing.
- A Babylonian Invasion is looming on the horizon.
- The armies have assembled. Jeremiah can almost spot the Chaldean banners fluttering in the breeze.
- The corrupt king, Jehoiakim, seems not to notice.
- He does nothing. He's too busy cutting up Jeremiah's sermons.

10 Jeremiah's Ministry

11 Judah

- As for the people of Judah, they're not much better than Jehoiakim.
- They don't see what the prophet sees.
- They don't share his expansive vision and warnings.
- The prophetic watchtower has no appeal.
- They'd rather scabble for shekels in the teeming streets.
- They can't see beyond their own petty problems, pleasures, or wants.

12 The Balm

- When Jeremiah asks.
- "Is there no balm in Gilead?" he's referring to a famous resin, harvested from the trunks of balsam pine trees that grew
- A fragrant ointment refined from that pine sap was good for all kinds of ailments.

13 True Healing

- Jeremiah regards the corruption of his people — their hopelessness, their lack of a future — and cries out:

- “Is there no balm, no medicine that can help?
- Is there no doctor in the house, no one who can bring true healing to this wayward and ailing people?”

14 True Healing

- The ailment, of course, is sin, which results in spiritual blindness.
- Jeremiah’s addressing it using a medical metaphor. It’s quite striking.
- For once, the prophet is not blasting the people for their immoral acts.
- He wants to heal them.
- He’s talking of sin and compromise as a serious moral ailment, a disease that is lethal and can only be healed when the people see their need for a healer.

15 The Great Physician

- Isaiah alludes to the Suffering Servant, or the Messiah, as the wounded healer who is the Great Physician:
- But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 NIV)
- He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)

16 Sin

- Sad to say, the little word “sin” has largely fallen out of favor in our society.
- When people today hear it, they are likely to have one of two reactions.
 - They either dismiss such talk as pious religiosity from some old-fashioned, out-of-touch Bible thumper, or
 - They see it as something perversely attractive—i.e., the sinfully delicious food you get at an Ekklesia Banquet.

17 Moral Sickness

- Jeremiah—who’s a pastor here, as well as a prophet — gazes out on a society that has degenerated into massive, systemic sin.
- Maybe once he was angry about it, but now he’s world-weary and filled with despair.
- His pastor’s heart reaches out with compassion.
- These people are sick, so very sick — and no doctor is on the case.
- The pharmacy shelves are bare as well.

18 Las Vegas

- Sin is not without its consequences.
- The Las Vegas tourist board aside, sin is not some spicy delight that “happens in Vegas, [but] stays in Vegas.”
- It never stays in Vegas.

- In fact, sin infects the souls of those who believe they can take a vacation from morality and suffer no repercussion.
- Sin makes the soul sick and no one is immune.

19 

- To be perfectly accurate, sin never originates in Vegas either, because the seeds of immoral behavior are already plant
- Jeremiah's whole point is that sin is not just a collection of disconnected, immoral behaviors.
- He never pretends the solution to sin is just exercising a little willpower.
- Jeremiah's a realist. He knows the problem runs much deeper than that.
- Sin is a deadly malady that needs to be healed.

20 **The Cure**

- The good news is that there is, in fact, such a cure.
- We know it in the Christian tradition as the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
- The key to this powerful medicine is something we carry within our own bodies, in reservoirs behind our eyes.
- Special ducts convey this salty solution from its storage-place when we most need it.
- Our eyes well up with it, and its droplets roll down our cheeks.

21 

- Tears are basically water, but when they are produced by a sorrowful heart they are a sign of something special going on

22 **Healthline, Benefits of a Good Cry**

- Detoxifies the Body from stress hormones through tears.
 - Helps self-soothe.
 - Dulls pain.
 - Improves mood.
- Rallies Social Support.
- Helps you Recover from Grief.
- Restores Emotional Balance.
- Helps a Baby Breathe.
- Helps a Baby Sleep.
- * So, later on tonight, I'm going to give everyone a good reason to cry!

23 **Tears of Sorrow**

- So then, how do we have a good cry?

- Is it not when we see our sins for what they truly are and how they separate us from God's presence and grace?

24 **Godly Sorrow**

- Again tears are a sign that we are sad and when we are sad for the right things we are blessed.
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit. for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3 NIV)
 - Blessed are those who mourn. for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4 NIV)
 - Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2 Co
- See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation

25 **A Good Cry**

- So then let us weep over the sin that can easily entangle us.
 - Let's cry about our foolish rebellion, pettiness, and self-centeredness.
 - Let's cry in remorse for chasing after foreign gods, such as fleeting pleasures and worldly materialism.
 - Let's cry for the way we harbor bitterness, resentment, and hold on to unforgiveness.
 - Let's cry tears of repentance from all those things that separate us from God's presence.

26 **The Spiritual Balm of Gilead**

- Why?
- Because there is a balm in Gilead... and Jesus Christ is the Great Physician.
- And when this spiritual balm we find healing for our souls.
- The balm of grace — the only thing in this weary world that can cure the sin-sick soul.

27 **Manasseh, King of Judah**

- Manasseh was the son of Hezekiah and reigned in Judah from 687-643 BC.
- While his father Hezekiah was a righteous king and instituted many reforms and did what was right in the Lord's eyes, I

28 **Manasseh, King of Judah**

- He not only reversed the reforms of his father but restored polytheistic worship of Baal and Asherah in the Temple of Jerusalem.
- He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists.
- According to 2 Kings, He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. (2 Kings 21:6 NIV)

29 **Manasseh, King of Judah**

- In fact, Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites. (2 Chronicles 33:9 NIV)
- So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 33:11 NIV)

30 **Cried out to the Lord**

- In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.
- And when he prayed (or cried out) to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought
- Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God. (2 Chronicles 33:12–13 NIV)

31 **Summary**

- Manasseh was beyond a doubt the worse king of Judah whose sins corrupted the whole country so bad that judgment
- Yet Manasseh himself found forgiveness and restoration because he “cried out” to the Lord with genuine forms of hum
- If God can forgive the worst of all the kings of Judah, no doubt he can help us who struggle with sin, backsliding, and t

32 **Summary**

- All we have to do is to “call upon the name of the Lord” in truth and be completely honest with him concerning short co
- In fact, if we judge ourselves first we put ourselves in the care of the great physician and then the spiritual balm of Gile
- The result is the healing of both our soul and spirit.
- So then, let us all have a good cry!
- In my distress I called to the LORD: I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice. (Psalm 18:6 NIV)