

Wrestle – Why Are You Weeping

Pastor John Carmichael

[Gen 32:22-31 NASB95] 22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had. 24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for [he said,] "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." 31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh.

- After Jacob was alone with God, he did something unthinkable: HE WRESTLED WITH HIM.
- God had already promised to bless Jacob. V.12.
- To receive the blessing, Jacob had to wrestle with God.
- [Hos 12:3-6 NASB95] 3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God. 4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us, 5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts, The LORD is His name. 6 Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.
- Jacob wrestled weeping, struggled with tears. It is a picture of us returning to God and waiting in faith.
- Weeping is not always tears; it is passion. We don't like passion. It scares us.

Why would we weep as we connect to God?

We weep because of the following reasons.

- I. We weep because of intensity of prayer.
 - Jesus prayed with tears. [Heb 5:7 NASB95] 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.
 - Jesus said God will bring about justice for those who cry out to Him with a deep passion for the answer in prayer. [Luke 18:6-7] And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"
- II. We weep to empty ourselves.
 - Hannah poured herself out before the Lord to receive answer to prayer. [1Sa 1:10, 15 NASB95] 10 She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. ... 15 But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD.
 - It may signify humility before God. [Luk 18:10-14 NASB95] 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a

Wrestle – Why Are You Weeping

Pastor John Carmichael

week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Worship will involve emptying yourself before Him. [Luk 7:37-38 NASB95] 37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining [at the table] in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, 38 and standing behind [Him] at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

III. We weep because we care about others.

- Jesus wept for those affected by the death of Lazarus. [Jhn 11:35 NASB95] 35 Jesus wept.
- The people who wept over the sins of the nation were protected from judgement. [Eze 9:4-6 NASB95] 4 The LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, [even] through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst." 5 But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. 6 "Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary." So they started with the elders who [were] before the temple.

IV. We weep because we desire more of what God has for us.

- Jacob needed God to bless him. He desired it so much it moved him to tears.
- The birthing moment is a picture of weeping and receiving answers to prayer. [Jhn 16:21 NASB95] 21 "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.
- [Psa 30:5 NASB95] 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy [comes] in the morning.
- [Psa 126:5 NASB95] 5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.

When we connect to God with passion, we will see God move powerfully.