

Title: A Beautiful Mourning ii

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Date: 12 March 2017

Time: 9:00am



A beautiful Mourning

NEHEMIAH 1:1-6 ¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “the remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.” ⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned.

Cry the beloved country

More than 99 000 schoolgirls fell pregnant in 2013 – a rate of about 271 for every day of that year.

81 000: 2012

68 000: 2011.

50 000: 2007

www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Teen-pregnancies-hit-99-000-a-year-20150905

Cry the beloved country

“I have one great fear in my heart, that one day when they are turned to loving, they will find that we are turned to hating.”

“Cry, the beloved country, for the unborn child that's the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing. Nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or a valley. For fear will rob him if he gives too much.”

About 3500 children are abandoned annually (about 300 per month) but that figure only includes survivors. Estimates are that only one third of abandoned children survive, and in Gauteng for example, for every abandoned child found alive, two are found dead. A large number of babies have already survived a late-term abortion prior to being abandoned. 52-58% of South Africa's abortions are illegal (up to 150 000 per annum), and in Gauteng, studies indicate that up to half of these abortions (which are seldom policed, and often unsuccessful) take place in the third trimester.

South Africa's child homicide rate 2.5 times global rate.

World Health Organisation

Child abuse.

Child abandonment.

Gang violence.

“Individuals, feeling powerless or helpless in the face of dramatic social and economic upheaval, frequently symbolically reassert their power through violence in those dimensions of their lives in which they still feel they hold sway. This results in much aggression which, although social or political at root, is expressed through displaced violence within the family and in the home”.

Graeme Simpson, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, 1993, The Daily Maverick

3,7 million orphans

9 million in single-mother homes

150 000 households where children are the only bread winners

63% of youth suicides from fatherless homes

30% of prisoners between 18-25 years

A beautiful Mourning: 1. Praise

NEHEMIAH 1:1-6 ⁵ And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

A beautiful Mourning: 2. Repentance

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Luke 4 ¹ “Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² And He said to them, “When you pray,

say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.³ Give us each day our daily bread,⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

Mark 11:25 ²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

We forgive to be forgiven.

Colossians 3:13 ³ 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

We forgive because we have been forgiven.

Matthew 6:14-15 ¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:31-32 ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

A beautiful Mourning: 3. Remember

NEHEMIAH 1:1-9 (ESV) ⁸ Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; ⁹ but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

ISAIAH 66:10-13 (ESV) ³ the Lord: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. ¹³ As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

ZECHARIAH 8:3-5 (ESV) ³ Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain. ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. ⁵And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

A beautiful Mourning

John 14:16-18 (AMP) ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor--Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever--¹⁷ the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you.