

Weaving the Word

The Sighs Have It

January 12, 2020

Welcome to where we're learning to battle our vain imagination!

Would you like to have a perfect body?

A strong, beautiful, indestructible, immortal, heavenly body!

Well, that desire is not only universal it's downright Biblical!



For we know that if the *tent*, which is our *earthly home*, is destroyed, we have a *building* from God, a *house* not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [Upgraded from earthly tent to heavenly house. From temporary to permanent. From the body we build to the body He builds] For in this tent we groan, [stenazō] longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, [This is what our groans are actually saying!] – 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 ESV



We've been hardwired for everlasting life.

Even though we know that death is part of life, and everyone ultimately dies, it still seems unnatural, untimely, and unfair.



[Because] He has made everything *beautiful* in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. – Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV

So, we're stuck with groaning for what we can't comprehend.

Everyone has a nagging inborn instinct for immortality.

C.S. Lewis picks up on this idea of eternity being in our heart.

Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for desires exists. A baby feels hunger: there is food. A duckling wants to swim: there is water. ... Therefore, if I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. – C.S. Lewis; *Mere Christianity*

[So] Who will rescue me from this body of death? – Romans 7:24 NIV

[Three guesses!] From heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die, that they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord, and in Jerusalem his praise, – Psalm 102:19-21 ESV



We left Jesus 50 miles from His home office in Capernaum, in Galilee, at His not-so-hidden hideout in Tyre.

Today, He's going 22 miles to Sidon, along the Mediterranean coast.

Then it's back through Galilee, to the Sea of Galilee, and into the region of the Decapolis (i.e. land of ten cities).

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, **Jesus left there and went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea** [When Jesus fed the 5,000 men, Passover was near. (Jn 6:4) Seven weeks later comes Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks), a mandatory pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Jewish men. But, God's plan and timing prevent Jesus from attending] **because the Jews there were waiting to take his life.** [So, He left Sidon and went around in Galilee] **down to the Sea of Galilee and along the Sea of Galilee into the region of the Decapolis.** [To teach the signs of the Messiah in Scripture, and confirm the authority of His new doctrine with miraculous wonders (hence signs and wonders)] There [while He was with an "immense crowd" (Mk 7:33, 8:1)] **some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk,** [He's not mute; being deaf has made it impossible for him to learn how to speak clearly (physically reflecting the spiritual condition of the crowd)] **and** [focusing on what they want rather than what Jesus is teaching] **they begged him to place his hand on the man.** After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. [And then] **He looked up to heaven** [from where the Father looked to hear the groans of the prisoners] **and with a deep sigh** [stenazō: groan; sigh] **said to him, "Ephphatha!"** (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's **ears were opened,** [which is good; he can hear] his **tongue was loosened** [which is good; he can praise] **and he began to speak plainly.** [Which is dangerous; he can share his opinions and sway others] **Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone.** [You can't hide a miracle; so what are they not supposed to discuss?] **But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.** [Because] **People were overwhelmed with amazement.** [lit. in shock. NKJ: "astonished beyond measure". But, about what?] **"He has done everything well,"** they said. [Plus, have you seen His miracles?] **"He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."** ["It's almost as shocking as the thing we're not supposed to be talking about. Almost."] – Mt 15:29; Mk 7:31-37; Jn 7:1 NIV



Ancient Gerasa in the Decapolis

What was so overwhelmingly astonishing?

The people were astonished at His teaching, – Matthew 7:28 NKJ

They were astonished at his doctrine – Mark 1:22 KJV

They were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. – Luke 4:32 KJV

They were exceedingly astonished, and said ... "Who can be saved?" – Mark 10:26 ESV

And the scribes and chief priests ... sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. – Mark 11:18 NKJ

He came to *sigh with us ... and then save us ... from death itself!*

Who do you say that He is? **This isn't open for discussion, by the way.** He's the Way. He's the Truth. He's the Life. And, strictly speaking, **He is only everything He tells us He is.** No less. No more. No discussion. And so, **they rejoiced in the healing while disobeying the Healer.**

"He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

"But, He sure isn't gonna tell us what we can and can't talk about! Who does He think He is?!"

That's the story of Jesus' life! As prophesied by Ezekiel:

[Son of Man] your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, "Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord." So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. – Ezekiel 33:30-32 NKJ

Don't just talk *about Me*, listen *to Me* and learn *from Me*.

Behold, God is my salvation ... the Lord, is my strength and song ... "Praise the Lord, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, [but, whatever you do, stop speculating outside of Scripture and expecting Him to fulfill it! (Jer 14:14, 23:16; Ezek 13:6)] – Isaiah 12:1-6 NKJ

Ears open. Tongues loosed. Mouths shut.

To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with your mouth, [Nobody wants rash mouth!] nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. – Ecclesiastes 5:1b-2 ESV

"Who do people say that I am?" "John the Baptist." "Elijah." "Jeremiah." (Mt 16:13-14)

"Yeah. Everyone babbles nonsense from their own vain imaginations." (Jer 23:16)

"You know, they even tried to make Me king by force!" (Jn 6:15)

Everything we do in this earthly tent: investing our time, showing our love, spending our money, using our talents, treating our neighbors, will greatly impact that eternal house.

Life on earth is just a dress rehearsal.

And everything hinges on our obedience to Jesus. Because, the way we look at life determines how our date with destiny goes. And the way we see Jesus shapes the way we look at life.

Nothing down here is living; (that's an illusion) it's dying.

Plants. Animals. People.

Everything has an expiration date.

And *that's* why, Jesus looks up to heaven and sighs.

For both our physical and our spiritual condition.

For while we are still in this tent, we sigh [stenazō], being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, [nobody likes to think about the transition] but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. – 2 Corinthians 5:3-4 ESV

And you, me, and Jesus aren't alone in our sighing and groaning.



The whole creation has been groaning together [systemazō] in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits [“Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits” (1 Cor 15:20)] of the Spirit, groan [stenazō] inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. – Romans 8:22-23 ESV



Our body is temporary Tupperware for our spirit.

Life is the practice before the perfect.

Scripture describes our brief stay down here as a *mist*, a *breath*, and a *wisp* of smoke.

As long as we're in tents, we'll be tense. So, let's look to the day we're past tents!

Everything depends on *how* you look at everything.

And *that* “everything” depends on *who* you choose to listen to.

[Long before Jesus came, Isaiah said] The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; – Isaiah 50:5 ESV

[And before Isaiah, David sang] O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. – Psalm 51:15 ESV

So, when you die, will you be *leaving* home or *going* home?