

HOUSE OF MOURNING HOUSE OF FEASTING

ECCLESIASTES 7:2-4

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It is better to go to a house of mourning
than to go to a house of feasting,
for death is the destiny of everyone;
the living should take this to heart.

³ Frustration is better than laughter,
because a sad face is good for the heart.

⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

ARE THESE CONTRADICTIONS WITH ECCLESIASTES 7:2-4?

Mourning: [Matthew 8:22](#) (let the dead bury their own dead – don't mourn)

Feasting: [John 2:1](#), [Matthew 22](#) (God's kingdom is like a wedding feast)

Feasting and Mourning: [Romans 12:15](#) (Rejoice with rejoicers, mourn with mourners)

God himself celebrates: [Zephaniah 3: 17](#) (He rejoices over you with singing; return of prodigal)

What do we make of these apparent contradictions?

HOUSE OF MOURNING: TWO TYPES

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but **worldly sorrow** brings death.

2 Corinthians 7: 10

HOUSE OF MOURNING: TWO TYPES

Godly Sorrow (Jesus is on the throne of your heart) (leading to repentance and life)

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4: 8-10

HOUSE OF MOURNING: TWO TYPES

Godly

James 4: 8-10 Commentary

- i. "The word used for sinner is *hamartolos*, which means the hardened sinner, the man whose sin is obvious and notorious." (Barclay)
- ii. In using terms like **lament and mourn and weep**, "James speaks in terms of the Hebrew prophets' language about the anguish of repentance." (Moffatt)

HOUSE OF MOURNING: TWO TYPES

Worldly Sorrow (self or idol on throne of heart)(leading to condemnation and death)

²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us! and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" ³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" **Luke 23: 27-31**

HOUSE OF FEASTING: TWO TYPES

Godly Feasting (leading to life and strength)

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 16: 11

The joy of the Lord is your strength. **Nehemiah 8:10**

HOUSE OF FEASTING: TWO TYPES

Worldly Feasting (Seeking pleasure, leading to addiction, depression, and death)

Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. **2 Peter 2:13**

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Even in laughter the heart may ache, and rejoicing may end in grief. **Proverbs 14: 12, 13**

(Example: King Belshazzar in Daniel Chapter 5: His feast was to pridefully show off his material wealth; as Daniel told him: "You did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.")

HOW THIS APPLIES TO THE CHURCH

1) See our future in the house of mourning and repent.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **Matthew 5:4**

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. **Psalms 90: 12**

2) Follow Jesus (The Way) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." **Luke 9: 23**

3) Stay on His path

STAYING ON HIS PATH

Two important functions of God's Church:

A) **Godly Mourning** (James 4) leading to spiritual warfare:

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **1 Peter 2:10**

B) **Godly Feasting**, which is Worship & Celebration

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **Philippians 4:4**

IF WE DO IT RIGHT, PERSECUTION COMES!

When persecution comes, Christians calculate the cost.

(Like in Revelation, we are either with Him or against Him)

1) Eliminates Christians who come to church for wrong reasons.

2) It makes it possible for true Christians to live in harmony

IF WE DO IT RIGHT, PERSECUTION COMES!

3) People come to Christ by seeing this love and harmony among Christians.

So, the number of new Christians and their harmony grows. (Acts 2:47)

4) The church becomes equipped by Godly wisdom & spiritual discernment more than ever to discern between a true new Christian and a seed of the enemy and a spy.

WHO CAN ENDURE PERSECUTION?

Those who genuinely seek God's kingdom can endure:

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

2 Thessalonians 1: 3-5

KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 13: Kingdom Parables

God wants us to seek His kingdom like our treasure, not like a chore or a job. So what are the characteristics of such seekers:

- 1) Good seed (God's word) 2) Good soil (Heart) 3) Growth (Lead by Holy Spirit) 4) Blessing others 5) Good influence on others
- 6) Discernment between good & bad and between friend & foe
- 7) Discernment of true value (Knowing God's values)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND APPLICATIONS FOR OUR DAILY LIVES

- 1) Is our mourning because of our sins and others'?
- 2) Is our feasting in God and because lost souls are found?