

The Bliss of the Broken-Hearted

A red rose is the central focus of the image, set against a black background. The rose is in full bloom, with its petals clearly visible. The text is overlaid on the rose in a white, cursive font.

*The LORD is close to
the broken-hearted; he
rescues those whose
spirits are crushed.*

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

Matthew 5:4

Some Things Only Sorrow Can Teach

- ◉ Something missing in life
- ◉ Illustration of Elgar the great musician
- ◉ Sorrow is the source of the great discoveries in life.
- ◉ **Adam & Eve—loss of Abel**

Sorrow at the Heart of Human Experience

- Job 14:1-- Man that is born of a woman
- Psalm 88:3-- For my soul is full of troubles:
- Psalm 38:6-- I am troubled;
- Psalm 42:9-- I will say unto God my rock,
- Psalm 88:9-- My eye mourns by reason of affliction:

Kingdom hearts touched by Sorrow

- ◉ Matthew 9:15
- ◉ Mark 16:10—wept after hearing of Jesus's death, and burial
- ◉ All Through Matthew depicts Jesus as being touched by human sorrow
- ◉ Romans 12:15 Weep with those who weep

Personal Mourning Covers a Wide Area

- Mourning for personal sin
- Mourning for loved ones
- Mourning for loss of friends
- Mourning for aging
- Mourning for sins of others

Dimensions of Comfort

- The person who goes to God will receive the comfort of God
- God is identified by Paul as the God of all comfort: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
- Sometimes used to describe inviting someone to a banquet.
- “When God comforts someone...”

Dimensions of Comfort

- Stott's comments, page 41ff.
- In the terrifying solitude of our pain, we can meet God.
- Our own suffering allows us to mourn so that in turn we can comfort others. See Redding's retreat book.

Conclusion

- ◉ Some things only sorrow can teach
- ◉ Sorrow at the heart of human experience
- ◉ Kingdom hearts touched by sorrow
- ◉ Personal mourning—diverse
- ◉ Dimensions of comfort



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