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TEXAS

The Texas Capitol Devotional

Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. James 4.9

Maybe Its Time For A Good Cry

"Don't be a cry baby!" This may have been your parents' admonition to you when you were a child. As children, we needed training to know the proper time and place for tears. While tears are often best restrained, even the most stoic of us knows the cleansing power of a good cry. The words of James we consider here teach us that a desire for cleansing from the stains of sin and worldliness should prompt weeping.

Be reminded that this section of James' epistle is the peak, the climax, the crux of the issue, the heart of the matter for the entire letter. If he had sent you this verse as a text message, it would be in all caps. If he had offered this admonition in a voicemail, he would be shouting!

The cause of James' emphatic tone is the worldliness in your life and mine. The lust for power, pleasure, and possessions decried in the previous verses call for heartfelt repentance. When you pursue friendship with the world, you entrench yourself in a war against God and His purposes in your life and the lives of those around you. As a state leader you face a barrage of enticements to worldliness through pleasure, power, and possessions.

Take a moment to allow the following questions and the working of the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

Are you gleefully indulging the passing pleasures of sin or are you sorrowful over the lustfulness of your own heart?

Are you exulting in your own position and prominence or are you saddened by the prideful attitudes that darken your heart?

Are you celebrating the piling up of worldly possessions or are you grieved by your lustful greed for these things?

Will you weep with the wise or whoop it up with the worldly?

Isn't it about time you had a good cry?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Garner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Don Garner

State Director, Texas