

THE SINNER'S BURDEN **(Psalm 137:1-4)**

I. The burden of sadness (vs. 1-2).

- A. There was misery in their hearts.
 - 1. These people were miserable in their new homes.
 - a. Sin brings misery and we need to learn that.
 - b. When a child of God sins God will let us go to Babylon but He will not allow us to enjoy it, until we allow our consciences to become seared.
 - 2. Listen to Jeremiah 25:1-11 to hear how they got there.
 - a. God had given them a land, a law and a Lord.
 - b. They defiled the land, defied the law and denied the Lord.
 - c. When they did these things, God used Nebuchadnezzar to punish them.
 - d. Someone once said, God can hit a tremendous lick with a crooked stick.
 - e. God used a sinful nation to punish His people.
 - 3. You might be thinking that if God really loved them He would not have done this.
 - a. Not true!
 - b. Jeremiah 24:5 - for their good.
 - c. Parents know that discipline is vital but not fun.
 - d. God did this for their good.
- B. There was a memory of their home.
 - 1. They sat down and wept when they thought of home.
 - 2. They hung up their harps because they were too sad to play while thinking of Jerusalem.
 - 3. It is a terrible thing to be lost and I feel sorry for those who have never known God.
 - a. However, they are not the saddest people on earth.
 - b. The saddest people on earth are those who have known God and are not in a right relationship with Him.
 - c. They have tasted of God and remember Him and His greatness and are sad because of sin.
 - 4. I'll never understand how someone can claim to be a Christian but live like the devil.
 - a. The only answer that I can think of is that they were never converted.
 - b. They may have been baptized but were never converted.
 - c. Many people leave the church because they were never really a part of it to begin with (1 John 2:19).
 - 5. We don't belong to a building but a body.
 - a. When one realizes he is part of a body and then finds himself away from that body there is sadness.
 - b. He can't be happy in Babylon because the body of Christ is

far better.

6. Someone once wrote: Where is the blessedness I knew; when I first saw the Lord? Where is the soul-refreshing view of Jesus and His word? What peaceful hours I once enjoyed! How sweet their memory still! But they have left an aching void, which the world can never fill.

II. The burden of sarcasm they can't endure (vs. 3).

- A. Sin not only brings slavery but shame.
- B. These people were too ashamed to sing when commanded to sing by their captors.
 1. Sing us a song captives!
 2. Keep us entertained!
- C. The world loves to see those that profess to believe in Jesus fall.
 1. Think of all that has been said about those that claim to preach and been found in sin by the public.
 2. The world doesn't differentiate between denominationalism and true Christianity so we even suffer.
- D. Chuck Swindoll once wrote, "The scoffers and critics of Christianity never stand taller or shout louder than when God's people publicly fall into sin and are forced to suffer the inevitable consequence. All Satan's host dance with glee when believers compromise, play with fire and then get burned."
- E. The greatest tragedy a believer has to bear is the shame he has brought on God by sinning.
- F. A teenage girl was out on a date with a boy and another couple.
 1. A party was taking place where alcohol and other sinful things were being offered.
 2. One of the group suggested they go to the party.
 3. The girl said if you are going there just take me home, I'm not going.
 4. Sarcastically, the one who had spoken replied "Are you afraid your daddy will hurt you?"
 5. To which she replied, "No, I'm afraid I'll hurt my dad."
- G. We have a heavenly Father that is hurt when we sin.
 1. When we sin we drag the name of our Lord through the mud.
 2. We open Him up to ridicule and we should avoid that at all costs.

III. The burden of a song they could not express(vs. 4).

- A. Only when one has been delivered can one sing (Psalm 32:7).
- B. The songs of God are songs of deliverance.
 1. The very first song we see in the Bible is in Exodus 15.
 2. It was a song of deliverance from the Egyptians.
- C. There is only one thing that can rob a saint of his song.
 1. It is not sorrow (Isaiah 30:29).
 2. It is not suffering (Acts 16:25).
 3. It is sin.
- D. If you want to sing again, you have to tune your heart again.

1. Ephesians 5:18 says to be filled with the Spirit and verse 19 says to sing.
 2. Get right with God by getting back to His word and will.
- E. We can sing when are right with God.

Not an original outline but author unknown.