

Transformed, Part 12 Romans 8:19-27 “A Groan that Reaches the Throne”

In Mark chapter 7 Jesus is passing through the region of Galilee where they brought a man to Him who could not hear or speak.

A) They asked Jesus can You please heal him.

B) What Jesus does first is puzzling – He places His fingers in the man’s ears and then what He does is **down right gross** – He spits on His finger ... tongue.

C) There He declared Ephaphata in the Aramaic which means to be open.

1) Wow!

I love this about the Lord Jesus always healing in a way where there is no formula, totally out of the box.

A) This healing method is not recorded as being duplicated by Jesus ever again. We are not to copy

B) **Here is the formula for deaf and mute.** Fingers in the ear – good spit – touch the tongue – Ephaphata. – No one spitting on you.

C) But before He spoke those words of healing to that man, Mark’s Gospel gives us an interesting insight that is easy to miss

1) Look at v.34 again- it says that Jesus looked to heaven and He sighed.

D) Now we could get caught up in the miraculous moment celebrating the healing and miss that little expression of the humanity of our Savior

1) the thing that really connects Him to us – A Sigh.

My wife she sighs a lot

A) My first reaction used to be – what did I do now?

Sure she was upset with me.

Nothing, I just needed to sigh – release – good.

B) Now – Good sigh or bad sigh?

C) To be honest, the word sigh is not strong enough it is literally to be translated, He groaned.

Why did Jesus groan?

He was about to heal that man, open his ears and his mouth and end his dilemma.

A) Why would Jesus groan. I believe it was the same reason He wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

B) It was His way of acknowledging that it wasn't intended to be this way.

1) Shut mouths, closed ears, sickness, illness, it wasn't intended to be like this.

C) When God placed man in the garden he was in perfect health, in a perfect relationship with God and in a perfect environment.

1) God gave man the **keys to the kingdom**, the keys to the car if you would, and we wrecked it.

So mankind is broken, the world is broken, and hearts are hurt and homes are messed up

A)and there are things like disease and birth defects and that's why Jesus looked up to heaven and sighed, groaned!

B)But listen, Jesus came to put back into order what you and I brought into disorder.

1)Right now He is doing it one life at a time.

C)So Jesus groaned and I point out this story **because** this same word Groan used of Jesus in Mark 7 is also used in our text here in Romans chapter 8. Turn read

LAST TIME V.18 GOD USES SUFFERING

Rom 8:19-27

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Life is full of groanings

A)Our text reveals three kinds of groanings, the first two make perfect sense to me and are predictable

B)but the last one sort of surprises me at first glance, but then delights me the more I consider it.

CREATION GROANS V.19-23 – With birth pains – Creation is in labor

A)Birth pangs – **not talking a whimper here** – Travailing

B)Creation is travailing – longing to be restored. it was subjected to futility at the fall – meaning creation cannot change itself.

1)But there is a hope.

C)A Savior is coming – restoration is on the way. Something amazing is going to be birthed. – Creation is expressing birth pangs

Have you ever noticed that in every fairytale they all have this in common: the kingdom has crumbled but **A HERO ARISES** and it is restored **why is that?**

A) I think there's something **inherent in the heart of man** that knows that something is not right, that things are out of whack.

B) So these stories are made up of a **fallen kingdom** of a **fallen world** and then all of a sudden the hero comes to the rescue. **{WE NEED RESCUED!**

1) Paul says the very creation around us knows this and it longs for the day, it's groaning, it's a longing to be rescued.

C) All of creation as one theologian put it, is singing in a minor key.

We can look at various parts of Creation and think – So beautiful, many places are. Great sunsets, living on the coast like we do.

A) **But it's incomplete/** creation is not what it once was. It is not what it was intended to be.
it's filled with flaws now because of the fall.

B) **Adam's sin in the garden** – sent everything into a major tail spin.

1) Man was affected, Atmosphere affected, the animal kingdom affected

C) **Picture this flipping through the channels, see an antelope prancing through the plain**

1) We are watching, noticing how beautiful... – sitting with your kids – look at the beautiful Antelope.

D) **But then this pride of lions comes on the scene. – Run down the Antelope**

1) **{Oh no, it is one of those kind of shows – who has the remote** - and you watch as the Antelope is ripped to shreds and becomes the lunch of that the pride of lions.

E) **Reminds us that is creation in it's fallen state. It truly is a dog eat dog world.**

1) survival of the fittest.

But that is not the way that it was intended to be nor is it the way that it is always going to be.

A) The Bible teaches us that one day Jesus, our hero is coming back and He's going to set things in order and the **lion will lay down with the lamb** and

the **bear and the cow will graze together**

Children will play with cobras and not get bit.

B) **Creation knows that is coming – and creation groans.**

1) Longing for that day! I don't know what groan means or looks like.

C) **I wonder if every earthquake is a way of creation groaning?** If so – groans are getting a lot more **frequent and intense.**

D) Jesus said the time leading up to His coming would be like a woman in labor –

1) What happens as she gets closer to delivery, the labor pains become more frequent and intense.

Creation is waiting to be redeemed it's falling apart, the second law of thermodynamics tells us that.

A) Everything is moving from order to disorder. entropy tells us that.

B) Cash for clunkers tells us that everything is going from order to disorder.

1) That Car was not always a clunker.

C) At one time it was a beautiful new car – the pride and joy of some family.

Dad came home and the wife and kids all piled in – smelt that new car smell and went for the family drive.

D) And now it sits in the drive way all beat up – the inside smells like a variety of smells – none of which resembles a new car.

1) **Reminder – fallen world – creation is groaning**

Which makes it really interesting to think about when we as people become so enamored with created things.

A) We learned clear back in Romans chapter 1 that a huge problem with mankind is his tendency to worship created things – rather than the Creator.

B) To look for satisfaction in created things rather than the Creator of all things.

1) **This guy or this girl is going to fulfill me** – soul mate – made for him/her. No, he is, she is a sinner – fallen – plagued, marred –

2) if you are looking for her/him to fulfill you – you are going to be miserable.

C) This new job – this new house – my new iphone – my new car – No it will one day be headed for cash for clunkers pile.

1) It is going to depreciate at least \$1,000.00 the moment you drive it off the lot!

D) Creation is not going to fulfill us – creation is groaning –

V. 23-25 We groan!

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

We are groaning: Getting out of bed in the morning? Bodies, Mirror - Entropy has set in.

A) Groaning in traffic ? { Toilet

B)Groaning as you watch the news – crazy world pp go into theaters, shoot

C)But the situation is Not Hopeless

Paul says v.24 that in hope we have been saved.

A)Hope is inseparable from salvation.

B)Our salvation was planned by God in ages past, bestowed in the present, and is now characterized by hope for its future completion. { WE GROAN

1)The believer's hope is not based on wishful thinking or probability, but on the integrity of the clear promises of the Lord.

C)The Writer of Hebrews calls this hope an Anchor to the soul (Heb. 6:17–19).

1)Paul refers to our hope of salvation as a helmet, symbolizing our divine protection from the blows of doubt that Satan sends to crush our hope (1 Thess. 5:8).

Peter said: We have been begotten again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A)Our hope is a living Hope because the object of Our Hope is a Risen Savior – Jesus is alive –risen !

B)He is working in this world – He is working in my life – the lives of those around me –

C)And one day He is going to return and restore everything to it's right place.

We wait patiently because of the object of our hope. – He is Trust worthy

A)As a young boy – I would wait eagerly for my dad to come home – baseball – batting cages - glove in hand – bat ready to go.

B)We are waiting for something far greater –

1 John 3:2-3

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

C)Whoever has this hope purifies himself – just as He is pure.

Like a bride getting ready for her wedding day!

A)She wants to look beautiful – her dress perfect – hair just right

B)She is not going to hop in her car, ’’ wedding dress – go through the drive thru at in and out – order a DD animal style to eat in the car with her dress on, on the way to the Church. - **What is that stain?**

C)Thank you for the Blood of Jesus that continues to wash us clean –

Precious family at CCV – let's seek to live pure –

A) We are groaning – but nothing here on this planet is going to satisfy us –

B) Our hope is in our Hero Jesus who saved us, sustains us and who is coming to rescue us.

C) Groaning- this world is not right – I am not right – Jesus help me – more of Jesus – Spirit cries v.15
Abba – Intimacy **REVIVAL**

Creation groans - We groan

Finally – The Spirit is groaning V.26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness. In this context, weakness refers to our human condition in general, not to specific weaknesses.

A) Weakness of our fallen nature, our tendency to sin and doubt and struggle.

Aa) **To supersede that weakness, Jesus has given us His spirit.**

B) His Spirit supplies us with all we need to be faithful, effective, and protected children of God.

C) Here Paul is illustrating another way that the spirit is working in us – { **ALREADY SEEN**
1) V.4 HS is helping us to walk toward Sanctification.
V.11 The Spirit of God is empowering us V.14 Leading us, v.15 In our hearts crying out Abba Father –

D) That is what the Spirit of God is doing in your heart – always – ever wonder why – sense such a struggle?

- 1) Your flesh doesn't want to honor God – it wants to please self.
- 2) It doesn't want to follow God – wants to follow the world.

E) So the Holy Spirit is constantly prodding us – Cow prod – out to get your attention – Constantly nudging us – go in this direction.

Here Paul shares another way how the Spirit works, Paul turns to the subject of prayer.

A) Because in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, { Paul, live or die and go to heaven not sure which is better. }

B) so many times I don't know how to pray- sick healing? or are you trying to use this.

1) Work in them – through them – broaden testimony and impact?

C)Job they hate, Lose it – something else trying to move them – or save

D)So many times I don't know what God wants- what is the right way but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. TOO DEEP FOR WORDS

He does not groan out of weakness—He is omnipotent. All powerful!

A)He groans in anticipation of all that Christ has done through His redemptive work **being fully applied** to the redeemed!

B)One commentator put it this way “His groaning join **in concert with creation and the redeemed**, of the certain hope and anticipation of all the effects of the fall totally eradicated. It is a compassionate groaning by which the Holy Spirit knows our weakness, while at the same time, He knows far better than we do the future glory that we shall one day experience without measure. His groanings form intercession toward our sanctification and glorification.”

C)He intercedes for us according to the will of God – the perfect Prayer!

D)He is focused on the goal – Next week we will look at the famous verse – Romans 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

This is what we forget- What is His purpose? Keep reading –

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, {That is where all of this is heading Big picture – Make us like Jesus } that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

The Holy Spirit is groaning in us – move us in that direction.

Now I want to point out here that this does not mean that we do not need to pray!

A)Some pp have wrongly interpreted this to mean that, hey if the HS is always praying the perfect prayer for me – why do I need to pray?

B)Jesus taught His disciples to pray – didn't say don't worry about it, the HS will cover you.

C)Not sure what to pray for someone – turn to Paul's prayers Eph 1, 3 Col 1 – tremendous prayers for your husband, - kids, friends, - commit to memory.

D)But there are those times when we feel like nothing fits – our words are a feeble attempts to convey our hearts – or the situation at hand.

Adultery – Kill them {No, I know that is not right
Not what He wants –

Seen men repent – restored marriages saved -

When all you can do is sigh – when all you can do is groan – the HS responds – intercedes

A)He comes to our aid. And then He pleads our cause.

B)That little preposition, V.26 “for us,” is more than just a nice thought.

1)**The Spirit stands in our place.** He takes up our broken words and thoughts, and even our own soul groanings and gives them clarity on our behalf.

B)He knows that we mutter and groan, unable to say what needs to be said, not even sure what we need to pray. And He then does it for us!

Martin Luther. Writing some 450 years ago, he commented that it's a good thing if we occasionally receive the opposite of what we pray for because that's a sign the Holy Spirit is at work in your life. We may be praying, “Lord, do this and this and this.” Meanwhile the Holy Spirit is saying, “Lord, what he means is this. Don't pay any attention to that. He said thus-and-so. If he saw the bigger picture, he'd really ask for such-and-such.”

C)Now I don't know if that is exactly what it looks like – But here is what I think

D)As we pray from our weak and limited perspective, the Holy Spirit takes some **divine White-Out** and “corrects” our prayers, so to speak.

He joins us in our weakness when praying to give clarity and accuracy to what we need to pray.

A)**Yet in doing so**, He **does not replace** our prayers. He **supplements** them so that God's will is always done

B) Since the Holy Spirit knows what God's will is, and since God searches our hearts, He is able to pray for us in ways that always correspond with God's will.

NEVER MISSES THE WILL....

Guys, do you understand what this means?

A)The groaning shows that He is fully engaged in our lives, partnering with us in these inward groanings of anticipation of future glory.

B)Some of you think that God is watching and waiting for you to mess up so that He can pound you.

B)Strive to be this perfect Christian – Joyless Christianity – because you are prone to think God only accepts your success.

1)Paul wants us to know that there is help for our weakness

C) Weakness qualifies you for the Spirit's intercession.

Weakness opens the floodgates of “celestial power.”
Weakness leads you into strength you never imagined.

D)As you groan – know this, the Spirit groans for you.

1)You don't know How to pray – He groans – When you pray, God hears

E)How do I know that!

Jesus groaned in Prayer – Psa 22

A)On the Cross – purchasing our redemption – all our sin was placed on Him – He who knew no sin literally became sin for us.

B)Psalm 22 Declares that Jesus cried from the cross –
My God My God why are you so far from helping Me. And from the words of My groanings?

C)God the Father ignored the groanings of His Beloved Son Jesus – so that Jesus could pay the price of our redemption. – Open the door to Salvation –

So that now when You and I groan – the Father listens – and He moves to our aid.

Holy Spirit is in us praying the perfect prayer.

Back to Mark 7 Jesus groaned but that is not all that He did – He moved

A)He still moves

B)He left heaven to come to save

C)He moves now to aid