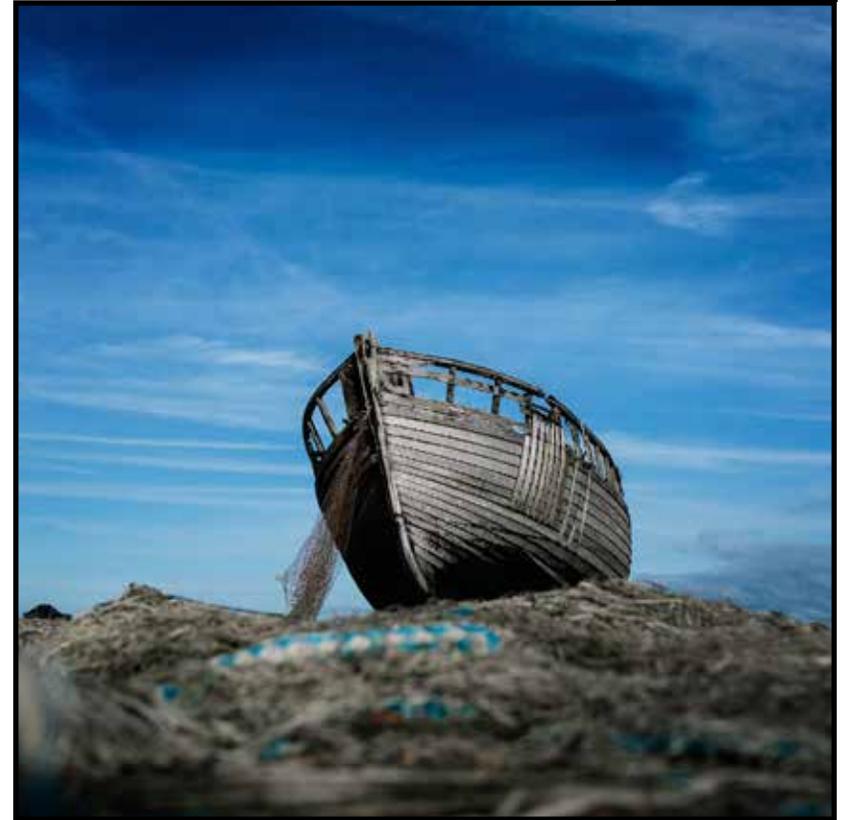




re//pent

PSALM 80:4-7

- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
 - 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
 - 6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
 - 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
-



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It is hard to imagine that people's praying would make God angry. But this is exactly what we see in verse 4. The situation that is described is dire and immensely sad. The people eat tears for their food and drink tears in full measure. God's chosen people have become the object of contention and they are mocked by their enemies. Why? The sin of the people had become so great, their disobedience so pervasive, that God was forced to discipline them in the harshest of ways. And this was perhaps the most loving thing God could do. God sometimes puts his people in difficult places so that they will see their desperate need and cry out to him.

Many of our churches sit exiled and ruined because of habitual disobedience and apathy toward God our King. We refuse to go and make disciples by proclaiming Jesus and his gospel. We become consumed with meeting the desires of those in our churches and fail to seek and serve the lost. We, like Israel, are very religious, only our religion is a false one. We must realize that our sin will separate us from God. Genuine revival and restoration comes only when through the

preaching of the Word, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our spiritual apathy and sin. At the same time, he opens our eyes to get a new glimpse of the holiness of God and of his wrath against sin.

We need God to open our eyes that we might see the desperate condition many of us are in. We need to realize how helpless we are to correct the situation unless God intervenes. A word of caution is due here. We often think repentance is something other people need to do. But please consider that it might be possible that any of us might be living faithless and disobedient lives that dishonor God's name, so **we must be honest and seek his understanding in all of these things.**

prayer guide

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

God, show me any sin or disobedience in my life or church life that dishonors your name.

God, reveal any false idols.

Strengthen me, Lord, to be faithful and be glorified in your church.

Confess any sin the Lord reveals.

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