

Be Thou My Vision:
A Church that Weeps Over Wounded People
Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 12, 2008

Matthew 23:37

"**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings**, but you were not willing.

BROODY HEN (ready to set):

- You can't make a hen "broody" (it's either part of her DNA or it isn't)
- The physiology of a hen changes once it goes "broody"
- The hen covers her nest with her wings for warmth and protection
- She actually looses the feathers on her breast and warms the eggs with her skin
- She will make growling sounds and may peck to guard her nest
- She only leaves her nest once a day briefly to eat, drink and potty
- After 21 days her chicks are born and she will remain on the nest 24-48 hours
- The broody hen then continues to protect the newborn chicks and teaches them to survive

Do you hear the Heart of Christ in this illustration?

If we are to be a Church after God's own heart,
then we must seek that Heart -- His heart.

Scripture only records 2 times that our Savior was moved to tears.

Two things brought our Savior to tears...

1. HURTING PEOPLE

John 11:35 (Over Mary & Martha's grief)

Jesus wept.

Luke 4:18 (Jesus announcing His ministry)

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, ...

He has sent Me to **heal the brokenhearted**..."

2. LOST PEOPLE

Luke 19:41 (Grief over the "lostness" of His people)

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, **he wept over it**.

Matthew 23:37 (After 7 Woes)

"**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings**, but you were not willing.

If we are to be His Church then we must have His Heart...

And He Wept over Hurting People and Lost People.

Wounded People!

What makes you Weep?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And **he has committed to us the message of reconciliation**. 20 **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us**. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God**.