

"Jesus Wept"

Introduction.

1. Tonight I would for us to study the second shortest verse in the Bible. (Jn. 11:35).
2. It contains only 2 words in our English translations and it is a verse almost every child knows.
3. This verse has 3 words in the original Greek.
 - a. The Greek has "the Jesus wept."
 - b. English translations omit the definite article "the."
 - c. Omission of the definite article does not alter or change the meaning of this verse and conveys the meaning of the original Greek in English.
 - d. **Note:** The actual shortest verse in the original Greek New Testament is 1 Thessalonians 5:16 "rejoice always."
4. John records these words when Jesus came to the tomb of Lazarus.
 - a. He says "Jesus wept." (Jn. 11:35).
 - b. This verse shows us that Jesus was a very compassionate and tender- hearted Person.
5. Jesus had a great love for Lazarus and his two sisters. (Jn. 11:5).

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

- a. The word "loved" [Greek *phileo*] is not a romantic love.
- b. It is a love used here to denote friendship.
- c. Jesus was very close to Mary, Martha and Lazarus. See Lk.10:38-42.

Luke 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up {to Him} and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

Luke 10:41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

Luke 10:42 but {only} one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Jesus Was Saddened

- Jesus was saddened by the death of His personal friend - Lazarus.
- He was also saddened by the tears of Mary and Martha Lazarus' sisters and by the many others who were brokenhearted over the death of Lazarus.

Not A Sign Of Weakness

- This verse teaches us that weeping is natural and is not a sign of weakness!
- Jesus was not a weakling!
- He faced many hardships during His life and had the courage to rebuke the religious leaders and other hypocrites of His day. See Matt. 23.
- He had the courage to rebuke the Sanhedrin even though it meant His death on the cross. (Lk. 23:63-71).

Luke 22:63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him,

Luke 22:64 and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit You?"

Luke 22:65 And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.

Luke 22:66 When it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council {chamber,} saying,

Luke 22:67 "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe;

Luke 22:68 and if I ask a question, you will not answer.

Luke 22:69 "But from now on THE SON OF MAN WILL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power OF GOD."

Luke 22:70 And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am."

Luke 22:71 Then they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

- **Those who shed tears today should not be regarded as strange or weak.**
- This does not mean we should constantly cry, but it does mean there is a time to cry [weep]. (Eccles. 3:4).
- There is a country and western song that shouts "Grown men don't cry," but that is far from the truth!
- Grown men do cry as manifested by the life of Jesus and the life of Paul who often shed tears for his brethren.

6. I would like for us to study the words "Jesus Wept" in the life of Jesus.

Jesus Wept Over An Individual

1. Jesus wept over an individual. (Jn. 11:1-46).

2. This narrative, about the death of Lazarus, is full of great lessons.

- It teaches us a lesson on the **unlimited power of Jesus** - heal the sick, still storms, take a few loaves of bread and a few fish and feed multitudes of people.
- He could even raise the dead. He raised Lazarus who had been dead 4 days. (Jn. 11:17)

- It teaches us a **lesson on compassion**. Though Jesus was the Son of God and knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, He still manifested compassion for Lazarus and his family.

3. The song "Does Jesus Care?" is answered in this passage with a resounding "yes"!

- a. When the Jews saw Jesus weeping, they exclaimed, "See how He loved [Gr. *phileo*] him!" (Jn. 11:36).
- b. The truth of this passage should motivate us to cast all our cares upon Jesus, for He cares!
- c. All of us need to heed the exhortation and admonition of Peter. (1 Pet. 5:7).

1 Pet 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

1) Jesus cares for all of His followers - past, present, future.

2) He cares enough to be our Savior and Mediator between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5).

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, {and} one mediator also between God and men, {the} man Christ Jesus,

- d. Jesus invites all to come to Him. (Matt. 11:28-30).

Matt 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Matt 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

Matt 11:30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

4. As Christians we should not be ashamed of tears!

- a. There are times that we shed tears of sorrow, tears of sympathy, tears of pain, even tears of joy.
- b. We should rejoice with others and weep with others. (Rom. 12:15).
- c. There are times when words do not bring comfort, but being present and shedding tears do comfort.

Jesus Wept Over A City - the city of Jerusalem

Matt 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

Luke 19:41 **When He approached {Jerusalem,} He saw the city and wept over it,**

Luke 19:42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

Luke 19:44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

1. Jesus wept, perhaps sobbed uncontrollably, because of the sinfulness and lostness of Jerusalem!
2. He knew the beloved city of Jerusalem was doomed with no hope of reprieve.

- a. Some of the Jews would repent as the New Testament reveals, but most would continue to reject Him and be destroyed.
 - b. The Romans would come and utterly destroy Jerusalem and the holy temple because of sin in A.D. 70.
3. **Jesus' tears were perhaps even more uncontrollable than those shed for Lazarus.**
- a. In John 11 Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus and everything would be alright.
 - b. In Lule 19:41 Jesus sobbed because He knew His beloved city would be destroyed and tens of thousands would die and even worse thousands would die in their sins without hope.

Jesus Wept In Agony At Gethsemane

1. The Hebrew writer records these words in Hebrews 5:7-9.

Heb 5:7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications **with loud crying and tears** to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

Heb 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Heb 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

2. These words refer back especially to Jesus' ministry and to Gethsemane. (Lk. 22:39-46).

Luke 22:39 And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him.

Luke 22:40 When He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Luke 22:41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and {began} to pray,

Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

Luke 22:43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

Luke 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Luke 22:45 When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow,

Luke 22:46 and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

3. **The human side of Jesus is clearly shown at Gethsemane.**

- a. He was suffering great distress and anguish because He would be crucified the next day and He would make atonement for all who would trust in Him.
- b. They would nail Him to a cross that was a horrible and painful way to die.
- c. Though He had no sin, He would suffer for the sins of all humanity. (1 Pet. 2:21-23).

1 Pet 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Pet 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1 Pet 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting {Himself} to Him who judges righteously;

- d. He would suffer the punishment we deserve because of sin. (Isa. 53:4-6).

Is 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him

stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Is 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Is 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

e. Jesus voluntarily went to the cross to die for you and me!

f. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Jesus Wept For The World

1. There is no specific scripture that refers to Christ weeping for the world, but the Scriptures clearly indicate Jesus had great compassion for the world.
2. The Bible tells us Jesus left the glories of heaven and came to this earth for one great purpose. (Lk. 19:10; Phil. 2:5-8).

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men.

Phil 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- a. The Divine Christ became flesh because He did not want men to die in their sins.
 - b. He was moved by His deep love for humanity to suffer on the cross that all could be saved.
 - c. How sad Jesus must have been when those He came to save deserted Him or mocked Him on the cross!
3. Jesus was moved to tears by the lost condition of man, and He came that man might not have to suffer condemnation.
 4. He was so concerned about men that He shed His precious blood on the cross.
 5. He suffered a horrible death on the cross to rescue us from the devil's hell.
 6. The devil and his angels will be cast into the lake of fire and all who reject Jesus will be in the same place. (Matt. 25:41).
- Matt 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;
7. The devil's hell is a place of everlasting pain and suffering where there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Conclusion.

1. We can see from this lesson that the Son of God was very human and very compassionate.

2. He had strong emotions and was not ashamed to manifest His emotions.
3. Think about how much it hurts Him today to see the world in the condition it is in.
 - a. Think about how much it hurts Him to be scorned and rejected by those for whom He died.
 - b. May each of us obey God and may Jesus never weep over our conduct.
 - c. Let us live to His glory and the glory of the Father in heaven!
4. Jesus spoke these words in Matthew 5:4.
 - a. Jesus teaches here we must mourn over sin to be saved. (Lk. 6:21).
 - b. Only those who are filled with godly sorrow and let godly sorrow lead them to repentance will be saved. (2 Cor. 7:10).

2 Cor 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to {the will} {of} God produces a repentance without regret, {leading} to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

5. This is what 3,000 people had on the day of Pentecost.
 - a. Luke records these words about the way many of the Jews responded to Peter's stirring sermon.

Acts 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Acts 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Acts 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard {this,} they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- b. Tears are not mentioned in the response of the penitent response of the 3,000 on Pentecost, but one can be sure that some or all cried knowing they had crucified the One who came to save them.
- c. The Bible say "they were pierced to the heart" and cried out to Peter, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).
- d. Without hesitation Peter gave them this mandate. (Acts 2:38).

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- e. Peter instructed these Jews who now believed in Jesus to repent and be immersed for the “forgiveness” of their sins.
- f. Three thousand obeyed Jesus that day and obtained forgiveness of their sins by obeying the instructions of Peter. (Acts 2:41).
- g. Men and women today will be forgiven if they obey the mandates of Peter and daily live for Jesus.
- h. The tears of Jesus become tears of joy each time a person submits to Him.

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