

The Shedding Tears of Jesus

TEXT: “Jesus Wept” (Jn. 11:35)

THESIS: Jesus is grieved because he is touched when we are at our lowest point and need someone who can remove the tears.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Lazarus was very sick and so his sisters sent for Jesus.
 - a. Jesus, at that time, was in Bethlehem.
 - b. “And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.” (Jn. 10:40)
2. However, Lazarus was dead by the time that Jesus arrived.
 - a. “Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already” (Jn. 11:17).
3. Notice, the conversation with Martha and Mary in John 11:20-32:
 - a. “Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, **Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.** But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. **Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.** Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him. Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him. The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.”
4. Jesus wept . . . But, why?
 - a. It was not because of the death of Lazarus because Jesus had deliberately delayed going to him.
 - i. For the Scriptures records, “When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was . . . And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him” (Jn. 11:6, 15).
 - ii. Jesus knew that he would raise Lazarus.
 - (1) Therefore, “When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not

unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby . . . These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth**; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.” (Jn. 11:4, 11)

- b. Now, not only did Jesus know that he could raise Lazarus, it is also true that it was unnecessary for him to even be there.
 - i. Notice that the apostle John wrote, “So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, **Go thy way; thy son liveth**. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, **Thy son liveth**. Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. **So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house**” (Jn. 4:46-53).
 - c. So, it was not necessary for Jesus to come to the aid of Lazarus because he could have made him whole while in the distant town of Bethlehem.
 - i. However, weeping implies grief.
 - ii. Why was Divinity (God in the flesh; Jn. 1:1, 14) grieved?
- 5. Let us notice that,
 - a. God was grieved.
 - b. The causes of Christ’s grief
 - c. God is sorrowful; Jesus weeps

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD WAS GRIEVED

- A. Before the days of Abraham, those on the other side of the flood, commonly labeled as anti-dilluvians (meaning before flood), were said to be very wicked to such a point that every imagination of the heart was only evil continually.
 - 1. Thus, “it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” (Gen. 6:6)
 - 2. God had destroyed them all except the eight he saved by water.
- B. But then later in time, we read of the children of Israel.
 - 1. The Hebrew writer wrote, “Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest) . . . But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had

- sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?” (Heb. 3:10-11, 17)
2. God was not going to allow, those whom he had designated as his people, to enter into Canaan, the land of promise because of their sin.
 - a. However, notice that this is no exception for us to disregard God either for, “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” (Heb. 4:1)
 - b. Thus, just because one professes to be a Christian, he must continue being a Christian daily.
- C. But, what grieved God so much that forced him to negate his promise to them?
1. Well for starters, they were idolatrous for, “they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.” (Exo. 32:6)
 - a. God saw that Aaron had built an altar before the golden calf and proclaimed it for the glory of God despite that God had forbidden them to make idols (Exo. 20:4).
 2. Then God was grieved because the children of Israel became fornicators with the daughters of Moab.
 - a. But, after what Phinehas had done, he turned the wrath and grief of God away from the children of Israel, for, “. . . while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.” (Num. 25:11)
 3. Furthermore, God was grieved because, “the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:” (Exo. 16:2).
- D. Thus God was very sorrowful over what man had done.

II. THE CAUSES OF CHRIST’S GRIEF

- A. He was rejected.
1. Does anyone know what is like to have created mankind just to have mankind turn their backs on you?
 2. Notice that, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (Jn. 1:11)
 3. Yet, not only did they not receive him, they sought to do what the wicked husbandman did to the owner’s son: “. . . This is the heir: come, let us kill him . . .” (Lk. 20:14)
- B. So, Christ was grieved at the rejection, but he was also grieved at the unbelief of the people.
1. “And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?”

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.” (Mk. 6:1-6)

2. Even though they were unbelieving, he continued to teach much like we are to continue to teach even though many we speak to are in unbelief of the Truth.

C. But, he was also betrayed.

1. “And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; **and kissed him.**” (Matt. 26:47-49)
2. So, while Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, was the betrayer of Jesus, Jesus knew what Judas would do.
 - a. For earlier he said, “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.” (Jn. 13:18)

D. Next, Christ grieved because he was denied by Peter.

1. Listen to this account in Luke 22:54-61: “Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest’s house. And Peter followed afar off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, **This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.** And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, **Man, I am not.** And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen. And Peter said, **Man, I know not what thou sayest.** And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, (imagine the expression of the face of Jesus) and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice.”

E. Then, Jesus was grieved by the cross.

1. Make no mistake, those crucified, whose skin was ripped from their beatings and other such horrendous things, died a very horrible death . . . and Christ, our Lord, was no exception to the rule.
2. However Jesus said, “. . . Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Lk. 23:34)

F. So, while Jesus was grieved over being rejected, being un-believed, being

betrayed, denied and grieving the cross, he also grieved in tears of regret over Jerusalem.

1. “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! **but now they are hid from thine eyes.** For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” (Lk. 19:41-44)
 2. This city was going to be destroyed by which Jesus cries out, “**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee,** how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matt. 23:37)
- G. Thus, Jesus also wept at the home of Lazarus.
1. “Jesus wept” (Jn. 11:35). But, why?
 - a. It was not because of the death of Lazarus because he had deliberately delayed going to him.
 - b. Remember, “When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was . . . And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.” (Jn. 11:6, 15)
 2. Jesus knew that he would raise Lazarus . . . so, why did he weep?

III. GOD IS SORROWFUL; JESUS WEEPS

- A. God is sorrowful because Jesus is rejected.
1. He said, “. . . Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.” (Lk. 9:48)
 2. Terribly though, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (Jn. 12:48)
- B. Now, when one rejects his words, they reject Christ for he said, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Lk. 6:46)
1. Thus, it is forbidden to have addition to his word for the apostle Paul said, “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.” (1 Cor 4:6)
 2. Likewise it is forbidden to have subtraction for, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mk. 16:16)

3. Again God forbids substitution for his words because, "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God** . . ." (2 Tim. 3:16)
- C. However, Jesus continues to weep for many Christians now reject him: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, **so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**" (2 Cor. 11:3)
1. Tell me: Can anyone sugarcoat the Gospel (meaning to make it appear more pleasant or appealing)?
 - a. Are we trying to please ourselves?
 - b. Paul asked the church, "do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).
 2. Tell me: Do we enjoy or find it necessary to have our ears tickled?
 - a. The Gospel warns that, "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
 3. Answer God this question: Are you willing to believe in your own opinions or thoughts and pervert the council of God?
 - a. Do you even realize what all the council of God really means?
 - b. Notice that Paul said, "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:20, 27)
- D. So not only is God sorrowful and Christ weeps because their word is rejected, because Christ is rejected by the world, because Christ is rejected by many Christians today, but Christ also weeps as do faithful preachers weep now.
1. Paul said, "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:31-35)
 - a. There are too many who want to hear sob stories to make worship more emotional.
 - b. There are also those who say to preach more on the love of Christ, instead of on the hate mentioned in the Bible.
 - (1) However, if those who say these things would study their Bibles diligently (2 Tim. 2:15) instead of skimming the

surface of the text, they would realize that every word in the Bible is soaked in love even when those very words, condemn us for doing wrong!

- (2) Thus, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Tim. 4:2)
2. For, **we desperately need to stop listening to the world and get back to the Bible:** “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. **But they said, We will not walk therein**” (Jer. 6:16).
- E. The fact is, Jesus weeps over you, the church, your city, and your nation.
1. He said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.” (Matt. 23:37)
- F. Jesus weeps over unbelief of his people
1. “Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.” (Heb. 3:10-11)
 2. In addition, listen to what Hosea said and see if this phrase can be applied today: “**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge** (*they would not diligently study*), I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (Hos. 4:6)
 3. You know, the members that make up the Lord’s church in the 50's, 60's and 70's were known for being walking Bibles . . . What are we considered as today?
- G. Notice also, Jesus weeps over covetousness.
1. “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” (Eph. 5:5)
 2. “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:” (Col. 3:5)
- H. And, he weeps over indifference, neglect: “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” (Lk. 17:10)
1. Some of our duties as a Christian is, singing, teaching, and ensuring the growth efforts of evangelism and mission work.
 2. However, if one part is neglected, then all of them are neglected.
- I. Finally, Jesus weeps over ungodly living.
1. For, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself

unspotted from the world.” (Jam. 1:27)

CONCLUSION:

1. God is not primarily concerned about physical man.
 - a. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26)
2. But, you should know that Christ died for our souls.
 - a. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Jn. 3:16)
 - b. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” (Rom. 5:8-9)
3. God grieves over the sins of his children, as you would grieve over your children.
4. Thus, when Jesus wept, it was not for himself.
 - a. Luke wrote, “And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, **but weep for yourselves, and for your children.**” (Lk. 23:27-28)
5. Jesus wept because he was touched.
 - a. “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Heb. 2:17-18)
 - b. “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Heb. 4:15)