

## TEARS OF JESUS

### Int.

1. Aim: To show why Jesus cried and lessons we can learn from it.
2. I sa. 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."
  - a. Prophecy about Jesus
  - b. A man of sorrows
  - c. Acquainted with grief
3. Jesus left us an example of how and when to shed tears. Three times we read about Jesus crying:
  - (1) John 11:35
  - (2) Luke 19:41
  - (3) Heb. 5:7

### Discussion

#### I. OCCASIONS OF THE TEARS

- A. John 11:35
  1. Jn. 11:35 "Jesus Wept."
  2. Shortest verse in the Bible - Only Thing some people know or remember about this important and impressive verse.
    - a. In English but not shortest in the Greek
    - b. Shortest verse in Greek is 1 Thes. 5:16 "Rejoice Always"

3. The Verse in Jn. 11:35 shows our Savior as a tender friend, and reveals His character as a man.
  - a. How precious were those tears, which assure us of the real, tender, loving and sympathizing humanity of Jesus in the very moment in which He was preparing to exert His omnipotence in the raising of Lazarus from the dead.
  - b. Context - Jn. 11:1-46 The grief and sorrow shown on this occasion grew out of the sympathy which He had for Mary and Martha, the grieving sisters of Lazarus.
4. "Wept"
  - a. Word not found anywhere else in the N.T.
  - b. It means to shed tears, to weep silently.
5. The weeping of Jesus here in Jn.11:35 is in contrast with the wailing of Mary and the Jews.

#### B. Luke 19:41

1. There is a different word than the one in John 11:35, which means to weep audibly, and it is once used for Jesus here in Luke 19:41. -
  - a. Here he wept over the city of Jerusalem because of its wickedness and impending destruction -
  - b. He lamented aloud.
2. Jesus was coming into the city of Jerusalem as a hero.
3. But he cried for the city because He wanted for them the abundant life, but they chose eternal death.
4. He had come that they might believe but they persisted in doubt.

## C. Heb. 5:7

1. This was not silent, but loud public crying.
2. This shows the humanity of Jesus. He did not want to suffer the humiliation, and pain of death on Calvary.
3. He prayed that God would find some other way to save man, but there was no other plan.

## **II. THE CAUSE OF JESUS TEARS**

A. Christ's Humanity

1. Jesus was made in the '..likeness of man...' Phil. 2:7
2. Except for the "virgin birth" conception, everything about his birth was just like other men.
3. As a child he grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Lk. 2:52
4. He was hungry, and He ate. He was thirsty and He drank. He was weary, and He rested. He was fatigued, and He slept. He was smitten, and He died.
5. That is why he was crying. They were tears of sympathy that he like a human being would feel.
6. Heb. 4:15 "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."
7. The manner in which Jesus was affected made a deep impression on the Jews, who witnessed it. Notice the verse right after where It says "Jesus Wept" - Jn. 11:36 "Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!"

B. Jesus's Pity - is another cause for his tears

1. Why did the Son of God become the Son of Man?
2. One reason was that He might suffer as we suffer, and thus help us to bear our sorrows and sufferings.
3. Heb. 2:18 "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." "He is able to aid"
  - a. Succour = to help, relieve
  - b. Christ shed tears at the grave of Lazarus because of his tender compassion over those who were burdened with sorrow.
4. Jn. 11:33. "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,"
  - a. Groaned = Agitation of the mind due to grief
  - b. Jesus was troubled because of the grief and sorrow of Mary and Martha

C. His Sorrow

1. As Jesus wept He could look about him and see sorrow in the hearts and lives of his friends.
2. What had caused it? Death - the passing of their brother Lazarus.
3. But what caused that death? The same thing that has caused every other death since Adam's sin.
4. Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

### **III. THE NATURE OF HIS TEARS**

#### A. Jesus wept modestly

1. He did not do it for show or attention.
2. It was necessary that His grief should be manifested for the comfort of the mourners. But that was the only reason he would show his sorrow.
3. He was not a professional mourner - playing a part.
4. Jesus was a man of a meek and lowly spirit and he did not do anything for the vain-glory of men.

#### B. Jesus wept unashamedly

1. Jesus wept and was not ashamed of his human feelings.
2. The sight of such sorrow and grief overpowered Him.
3. There was no attempt to refrain His sympathies.
4. He was not ashamed of possessing our ordinary feelings.
5. Even though Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, his heart was so touched by their grief that he shed tears.

### **IV. THE LESSON OF HIS TEARS**

#### A. They are a pledge

1. Christ's tears assure us of His constant sympathy for us.
2. He said: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Mt. 28:20
3. When Jesus wept with Mary and Martha, His tears promised that all His suffering followers, to the end of time, should have His pitying regard.
4. We have a saviour who could shed tears of love, sympathy, and concern.

## B. They are an example

1. The tears of Jesus bid us to sympathize with all sad hearts, and to comfort them.
2. Jesus is our example here - 1 Pet. 2:21. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"
3. Our sympathy is a weak thing as compared with the sympathy of Jesus, yet it can do something to help others.
4. So what Christ did he bids us to do. We should follow Him in His sympathy for others.
5. Rom. 12:15 "... weep with them that weep."

## CONCLUSION

1. Because of his tears, our tears may be wiped away - Rev. 7;17 21:4
  - a. Rev. 7:17 "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
  - b. Rev. 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."
2. Key verses in the Old Testament
  - a. Ps. 126:5 "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."
  - b. Ecl. 3:4 "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

- c. Isa. 25:8 "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it."

3. "Jesus Wept" - Jn. 11:35 Short verse with a big message.
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