**Jesus Wept**

*John 11:35*

**Introduction**

1. Sorrow comes with our being present on earth.
2. One of the wonders of heaven is that sorrow will be absent – **Revelation 21:4**
3. However, until the day sorrow is taken away, we must cope with it.
4. It is fitting, then, that Jesus partook in humanity and experienced sorrow as we do – **Hebrews 2:10, 17; 4:15**
5. Prophecy describes Him as being a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief – **Isaiah 53:3**
6. In a short sentence, John records this in fulfillment – **John 11:35**
7. We should be impressed, instructed, and encouraged by the fact that Jesus wept.
8. Significance that Jesus Wept – His Humanity
9. John’s gospel establishes the deity of the man Jesus – **John 20:30-31**
   1. Some refused to believe Jesus was God – **John 8:21-23, 56-59** (***“I AM”***) – if they continued, they would die in their sins.
   2. Some refused to believe Jesus was a man – **2 John 7-9** – if they continued, they would not have God.
10. The Eternal Word Became Flesh
    1. **John 1:14** – The Word, who possesses the same nature as God the Father, became a man.
    2. He left the place where there are no sorrows (**cf. Revelation 21:4**) and entered time and space where sorrow is in abundance.
    3. Such sorrow led to the physical response of crying:
       1. **John 11:33, 35** – He groaned in the spirit, then wept.
       2. **John 11:36** – People saw this – it was visible.
       3. This was clearly a man, although more than a man.
11. Jesus Understands and Can Help
    1. **Hebrews 2:10, 17; 4:15** – He can sympathize with us, and aid us.
12. Significance for the Reasons Jesus Wept
13. When Others Wept
    1. The death of Lazarus – **John 11**
       1. **(vv. 1-3, 5**) – Jesus had a close relationship with the sisters and their brother Lazarus.
          1. Knows something greater they need – **(vv. 4, 6, 14-15)**
          2. Yet, this was no easy matter for Jesus. While God seeks to stress the ephemeral nature of physical afflictions, He by no means minimizes their legitimate effects.
       2. Martha – **(vv. 20-22)** – her words surely affected Jesus.
          1. He offered comfort – **(vv. 23-27**)
       3. Mary – **(vv. 32-37)** – It was not that Martha had no sorrow, but Mary’s raw display of emotion affected Jesus all the more.
          1. Jesus cared about Lazarus.
          2. Jesus cared about the Father being glorified, and this was necessary for it.
          3. He also cared about the effect it had on the sisters of Lazarus.
    2. God cares about our sorrows, and sees our pain:
       1. Israelites in Egypt – **Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-10** – heard their cries and saw their affliction – AND CARED.
       2. As the God of comfort, He is attentive to our despairs with the aim to help – **Romans 15:4-5; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7**
14. When Judgment Was Coming
    1. Jesus’ utter sorrow as He looked upon Jerusalem at His triumphal entry – **Luke 19:41-44**
       1. **(v. 42)** – they had many chances, but they continually refused God’s grace and mercy **(cf. Matthew 23:37-39).**
          1. **(v. 44b)** – they missed out on their opportunity to be delivered from destruction.
       2. **(vv. 43-44a)** – the destruction would be immense.
          1. “neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries…from the beginning of the world” (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book V. Chap. X, p. 5).
          2. “If the miseries of all mankind from the creation were compared with those which the Jews then suffered, they would appear inferior.” (Josephus)
          3. “there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.” (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book VII. Chap. 1, p. 1)
    2. Such an example tells us of the nature of God:
       1. He is just – **Habakkuk 1:13** – the prophet speaking of God (confused by God’s actions because of His known character).
       2. He is merciful – **Exodus 34:6-7** (notice the combination of justice and mercy).
       3. He is not willing that any perish – **2 Peter 3:9**
          1. Yet, He will not alter His conditions, or ignore those who neglect to meet them – **1 Timothy 2:3-4**
          2. The Jews rejected the Christ, and were justly put away – **Romans 9:30-33**
          3. God has no pleasure in this – **Ezekiel 33:11**
15. When Greatly Distressed
    1. The great weight of the cross is on full display in the garden scene – **Luke 22:39-46**
       1. Jesus was not above the physical, mental, spiritual toll of such a task.
       2. He knew it was His duty, and was fully committed, but this didn’t make it easy – **John 12:23-24, 27-28** – His soul was troubled.
    2. Jesus’ call to take up our cross is not without the understanding of what that truly feels like – **Mark 8:34**
       1. Some imagine that He had some special strength that helped Him endure – i.e. something we don’t have because we aren’t God in the flesh.
       2. This couldn’t be, else this is not true – **Hebrews 4:15** – He couldn’t sympathize if He had an advantage of which we are bereft.
       3. His own understanding leads to His desire to aid us in our great distress – **Hebrews 4:16**
    3. Notice the contrast between Jesus and the apostles – **Luke 22:44-45**
       1. **(v. 44)** – the intensity of Jesus’ agony led to all the more intense prayer. (**cf. Hebrews 5:7-8**)
       2. **(v. 45)** – the intensity of the apostles’ sorrow put them to sleep.
       3. Cast cares upon God, and do not be anxious – **1 Peter 5:6-7; Philippians 4:6-7**
    4. The trials Jesus experienced caused His spiritual focus to intensify, and that is why God was pleased with Him – **Hebrews 12:1-4 , 11-13** – it is to be so with us.
16. He Was Grieved by Hard Hearts
    1. Pharisees lying in wait for Jesus to do something with which they can accuse Him, not bothering to consider His teaching – **Mark 3:1-6**
       1. Jesus had just taught them correctly about the Sabbath when they accused His disciples – **Mark 2:23-28**
       2. **(vv. 1-2)** – despite His correction of their view of the Sabbath, they held on to it and were looking for ways to accuse Him.
       3. **(vv. 4-5)** – He gave opportunity for them to cede to the truth, and abandon their sinful ways, but their hearts were hardened to the truth.
       4. **(v. 6)** – Their hardness manifested to a greater degree when they conspired with a group they normally had no dealings with.
          1. Herodians loyal to the king Herod.
          2. Pharisees opposed to the governing authorities.
    2. God and Christ are seeking those who are seeking truth, who are making an honest effort in finding it to do it – **Acts 17:11, 26-27; Matthew 7:7-8**
    3. Those who are not intellectually honest, who have stubbornly stopped their ears from hearing parts of the truth which make them uncomfortable, who aren’t willing to change, grieve Christ.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus wept on more than one occasion, always displaying His identification with humanity, but also giving us a view beyond the veil of the divine nature.
   1. That Jesus wept – “This is in sacred and eternal refutation of the theory which deprives the incarnate Logos of St. John of human heart and spirit. These tears have been for all the ages a grand testimony to the fullness of his humanity, and also a Diving revelation of the very heart of God.” (Pulpit Commentary)
2. We should realize the help available through the knowledge that Jesus wept, and do our best to seek it always.
3. We should also realize the profound significance of one of Divine Nature weeping, and avoid committing those things which caused His tears.