

THE TEARS OF JESUS

Text: *John 11:35: Jesus wept.*

Luke 19:41: And when He was come near, He beheld the city [Jerusalem], and wept over it.

*Hebrews 5:7: [Speaking of Jesus]
Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him Who [The Lord God] was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared.*

Who has not wept? Weeping begins when life begins as we are helpless babies, and — amid tears of sorrowing friends — we pass at the graveyard.

Tears are the badge of sorrow and sometimes joy. How can they be the expression of the Gospel? The glad tidings of great joy and divine love are wrapped up in the tender Son of God Who is the heart of the Gospel. Paul said,

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

Jesus has provided, through his tender love, redemption. He has so transformed a curse into a blessing and made a rainbow out of His tears.

John 11:35: Jesus wept.

It is just a little phrase, the shortest verse in the Bible. But it has more in it than all the books man has ever written. A single drop of ink could write it, but the entire world cannot contain its depths of love.

“Jesus wept.” This tells me that My Redeemer is human. Tears are human. His tears proclaim Jesus, the loving Head of our fallen race. He Who has come to us from Glory is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, yet without a sinful nature.

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When God determined to save this fallen, hell-bound world, He did not send

some mighty angel. He did not come in His awful wrath and judgment power. He stooped to become a man that He might meet us in a gentle, human form, of which we should not be afraid.

Certain Christians cling to the tenderness of the Virgin Mary to introduce us to Christ. But we do not need even woman's tenderness, for the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior has a heart of love more tender and deeper than any woman.

Oh, what a Gospel of Comfort there is in Jesus. He was moved with compassion upon the multitudes, having no helper, as sheep without a shepherd.

Paul tells us in **Hebrews 2:14** and **Hebrews 4:15-16**:

Hebrews 2:14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him [satan] who had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 4:15-16:

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.

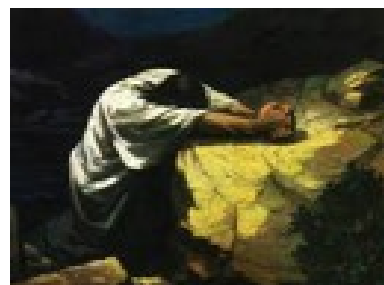
¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need.

His tears tell us He is able to sympathize with our sorrows. He wept those tears for others. He saw two hearts breaking. He felt their agony. He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled, then burst forth into a flood of tears!

How this impressed the Jews as they looked on, and they said, "Behold, how He loved them". How I thank my Savior for such a heart, and for those tears.

The salvation He came to bring is not all together for the pearly city and the streets of gold, our future home in the sweet by and by. It is for us, now, down here, in this world of suffering, sorrow, death, broken friendships, wrecked homes, and shattered lives caused by sin and the slimy serpent, the enemy of our soul.

Jesus felt the awful weight of our sins as He sank down in the Garden of Gethsemane beneath its load. He prayed with strong crying and tears.



He knows the cloud of spiritual darkness we are in without Him. He knows the agony sin has caused us. But Jesus did not come to earth to weep in helpless sorrow, but to rise in almighty Power against our doom, and rescue us from the devil's hell. We deserve to shed tears in Hell through pain as our just punishment, but the Great Substitute and Sacrifice — Jesus — is in the Garden, taking our load upon Him.

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The tears of Christ's compassion are in another picture, in **Luke 19:41**. He was entering Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. As the whole city bursts forth into view, He gazes down upon it with a heart that is feeling that which no one but He could feel.

Luke 19:41-42:

⁴¹ ***And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it,***
⁴² ***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.***

These are not tears of a powerless Christ, but of a Savior Who is longing to save. He is telling us, in tears, that He knows our end without Him, our destiny, and our lost estate.

This is the soul winner's example. We cannot touch the lost for Jesus unless we are touched for the lost, as Jesus was.

Psalms 126:5-6:

⁵ ***They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.***
⁶ ***He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.***

These tears of Jesus at the grave of Lazarus are not of a powerless Christ, but One Who felt our sorrows. He was not weeping because He had no help or comfort to offer. Jesus saw the grief of every soul who suffered the loss of their loved ones. He saw — and felt — the curse of sin upon every soul of humanity.

John 11:37: *And some of them said, Could not this Man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?*

Jesus, therefore, groaning in Himself, went to the grave.

John 11:39: Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone." Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."

Jesus said to her:

John 11:40: Jesus saith unto her, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the Glory of God?"



We have the divine order reversed; we want to see, and then believe.

I do not believe in dry-eyed religion. I believe that the sorrow and tears of Jesus over the lost are the same that the lost must have over their lost beings, and in Godly sorrow and repentance turn from and forsake their evil ways.

Tears will not bring salvation, but they are a means to salvation. Some are only sorrowful because they got caught in their sins. Others are sorrowful because of the curse their sins have had upon their bodies, their homes, and their futures.



The sorrow of this world works death, but Godly sorrow works repentance.

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