

05/24/20 Notes

Part of Just Getting StartedA series on the Gospel of John
May 24, 2020

Message: Jesus Wept

Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 17th week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

God Has Emotions

Today we're in John 11 and it reminds us that God has emotions! It also reminds us that the miracle in John 11, just like two other miracles we've discussed (lame man and blind man healed), they are not found in the synoptic gospels, only in John's Gospel.

A neat fact about John 11, it contains the "shortest verse" in the Bible, verse 35, "Jesus wept."

The Greek word (dakryo) is used (the only time it's used in the Bible) to describe a silent shedding of tears. Much different than (klaio) wail or audible crying described in Luke 19:41 or Hebrews 5:7.

One writer said, "This is the shortest verse in the Bible, but no verse carries more meaning in it. Jesus understood and understands."

- Jesus UNDERSTOOD and Jesus UNDERSTANDS

As we go through the passage today, ask yourself: Why did Jesus cry?

Lazarus is Sick

John 11:1-7 (NIV)

- 1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
- 2 This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.
- 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."
- 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."
- 5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
- 6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.
- 7 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

Jesus loved this family – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It's a (phileo) love, to love as a friend. It's an intimate love, but not sexual, it's not romantic.

Mary and Martha were gathered around Lazarus as he was near death. The sisters sent for Jesus.

The Messenger Finds Jesus

- Jesus tells the messenger, this sickness will not end in DEATH

Yet, Jesus intentionally remained where He was for two days. The messenger likely traveled a day to find Jesus, Jesus remained for two days, then Jesus traveled a day to Bethany.

- FOUR DAYS passed before Jesus would arrive in Bethany

Jesus shares with His disciples, the true condition of Lazarus.

John 11:11-15 (NIV)

- 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."
- 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."
- 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.
- 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,
- 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

- Lazarus is DEAD

Jesus Travels to Bethany

John 11:17-22 (NIV)

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,

19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

- It’s all about His TIMING (not ours)

John 11:23-29, 32 (NIV)

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”

29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus Teaches Mary and Martha

- Jesus said, I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE (v25)
- Whoever lives and believes in Me will NEVER DIE (v26)

John 11:33-36 (NIV)

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

It’s likely Jesus wept because of two “feelings” or “emotions” He had...

- Jesus CARES

No doubt Jesus cared for the family and it hurt His heart to see them suffer.

- Jesus was ANGRY

Perhaps He was angry at the crowd for telling Him what He should do, or the ones who were no doubt mocking Him. Even more probable was His anger that death entered the world in the first place. Angry that Lazarus died. Angry that Mary and Martha hurt and suffer in his death.

God didn’t create a world with death – He created a world filled with perfection and filled with life. Humanity brought death into the world because death always accompanies sin! When sin came into the world, so did death! And that breaks Jesus’ heart. He was confronted face to face with a consequence of sin and was witnessing a broken family because of it.

- SIN breaks Jesus’ heart
- The EFFECTS of sin breaks Jesus’ heart

To the one who came to bring life, death was a stark reminder of the continuing cosmic struggle between God and Satan for the souls of men and women. As long as death reigned, the kingdom of God was not yet finally and completely established.”

—Robert H. Mounce

John 11:38-39 (NIV)

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave

with a stone laid across the entrance.

39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Jesus was warned by the family – Lazarus has been dead four days! His body was most likely in a state of decomposition beyond recognition or form. That makes the miracle even more amazing!

John 11:40-42 (NIV)

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

- If you BELIEVE you will see the GLORY of God (v40)

John 11:43-44 (NIV)

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Jesus used a Greek word (lyo) that means to untie or loose... that's where some translations say, “loose him” and “let him go.”

One pastor said if Jesus hadn't called “Lazarus” by name when He shouted, he'd have emptied the whole cemetery!

People Tattle on Jesus

Some in the crowd run to tell the Jewish “religious” leaders what Jesus had done.

John 11:48 (NIV)

If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him...”

From that day on, the Jewish leaders plotted to arrest and kill Jesus (v53).

Jesus Makes it Personal

What happens to Lazarus is much like what happens when we turn our lives over to Jesus.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 in your devotion time this week. It tells us we are dead because of our disobedience and our many sins. But God loved us so much... in His rich mercy, even though we were dead, He gives us life!

The old Lazarus was rotten, decomposed, and beyond anything you'd want to smell or see. That Lazarus didn't walk out of the tomb that day. Lazarus was raised as a new creation! It wasn't putting together an old, scarred, damaged body... it was giving life where before – there was no life... it was giving breath where before – there was no breath...

Don't you see... you're Lazarus!"

—Pastor Chad

Today you're either in one of two places – you're still dead in the tomb, or you've been raised as a new creation in Jesus, given life, and you've walked out of the tomb!

If you're still in the tomb... Jesus is standing at the entrance with tears in His eyes, crying for you. If you're still in the tomb, there's only one way out and that one way is Jesus."

—Pastor Chad