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Tears Mean Many Things**Jn. 11:35**

The shortest verse in the Bible is found in the gospel of John, the verse declares, “Jesus wept”. Jn. 11:35

The occasion is at the funeral of Lazarus, the one whom Jesus loved!

There are many different types of tears.

1. Tears of physical pain.
2. Tears of emotional pain.
3. Tears of sorrow.
3. Tears of regret.
4. Tears of frustration.
5. Tears of happiness.
6. Tears of joy.

The fact that Jesus was God incarnate and that He wept is no contradiction to any person since He was fully man and all-together God at the same time.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen of angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up into glory.” 1Tim. 3:16

The weeping of Jesus must be interpreted form within it’s context in this chapter or it will become very subjective in nature.

1. Jesus was certainly not weeping for Lazarus for he would be better off in the Bosom of the Father.
2. Jesus was not weeping for having missed his death for He delayed purposely two days.
3. Jesus was not weeping for Himself.

The weeping of Jesus was for three reasons.

- I. To reveal His humanity.
- II. To reveal His disdain for hypocrisy.
- III. To reveal His grief over the results of the fall.

I. To reveal His humanity.

- A. His humanity made Him vulnerable like all of mankind.
 1. Jesus had feelings like any and every person moved.
 2. Jesus was expressing those feeling through emotions like any other person.
 3. Jesus was humbling Himself before the people as He wept.
 - a. The word wept “edakrusen” means to shed tears quietly, literally to burst into tears, which stand in sharp contrast to the loud wailing of Mary and the Jews! vs. 33, 35

- b. The Lord poured tears out as He prayed to the Father. Heb. 5:7
- c. He cried over Jerusalem for her blindness regarding the things that had been prepared for her but now they would be hid from her. LK. 19:41
* Different word are used but He cried, a man of sorrows as Isaiah aquatinted with grief so that He might wipe our tear away one day. Is. 53, Rev. 7:17!

B. His humanity causes man to identifying with Him.

1. He was a real person, born of a woman under the law.
2. He was spoken against.
3. He was insulted.
4. He was threatened.
5. He was hated.
6. He was accused falsely.
7. He was betrayed.
8. He was abandoned.
9. He was lonely.
10. He was questioned.
11. He was doubted.
10. He hungry.
11. He thirsted..
12. He tired.
13. He slept.
14. He cried.
15. He bled.

16. He died.

- C. His humanity makes Him a faithful High Priest.
 1. The function of a High Priest was to make intercession for others like him. Heb. 4:14
 2. The priest was sympathetic due to the fact that he was compassed with the same weaknesses. Heb. 4:15a
 3. The priest was tempted as all men, so Jesus yet without sin. Heb. 4:15b
 4. The High Priest of the Old Testament did were inferior and types of the more excellent ministry and mediator of a better convent, established with better promises. Heb. 8:6

The weeping of Jesus revealed His humanity!

II. To reveal His disdain for hypocrisy.

- A. His disdain for hypocrisy is due to it's deceit.
 1. Hypocrisy puts on a mask.
 - * It appears to be under the motives and intent of sincerity but it is pretense.
 - a. The person is pretending to be someone they really are not.
 - b. The person is communicating things that are not.
 - c. The person is doing things that are not from the heart.

2. Hypocrisy puts on a blind-fold on the other person.
 - * It appears to be interested in the person but it is interested in self.
 - a. The person responds in gratitude for the words or actions done rather than reproving the person.
 - b. The person can not see the heart only the words and deeds.
 - c. The person can not protect his or herself from the motives of the hypocrite.
 3. Hypocrisy pursues a goal.
 - a. To get recognition and be impressed with their person.
 - b. To get a reputation of being more loving, sensitive or kind than they really are and cause people to think of them as someone and something they are not.
 - c. To gain reward while giving the impression that their motives were pure and for the person.
 - * You have fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in great measure. Ps 80:5
- B.** His disdain for hypocrisy is due to it's destructiveness.
1. The person feels shocked at the awareness of the person.
 - a. That they were taken in.

- b. That they made themselves vulnerable.
 - * My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to God. Job 16:20
2. The person feels angry at the person.
 - a. For their deception.
 - b. For their brashness and nerve.
 - 1)The response of Jesus to the genuine weeping of Mary to the hypocritical weeping of the Jews was to groaned "enebrinesaio" in His spirit which means to snort like a horse and connoting anger.
 - 2) The word troubled "etaraxen" is a reflexive verb expressing agitation.
 - 3) The description is in His spirit, His human spirit not the Holy Spirit.
3. The person feels resentment for the person.
 - a. For the insincere actions.
 - b. For the personal damage done.
 - * My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" Ps 42:3
4. The person feels retaliation and revenge for the person.
 - a. To have a sense of relief.
 - b. To have a sense of satisfaction.
5. The person feels bitterness is justified against the person.
 - a. For the loss of the time or a relationship.

- b. For making themselves vulnerable to the other person.
 - * Solomom declares, “Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter--On the side of their oppressors there is power, But they have no comforter.” Ec 4:1

The weeping of Jesus revealed His disdain for hypocrisy!

III. To reveal His grief over the results of the fall.

- A. The fall destroyed man’s fellowship with God.
 1. The death that took place immediately in their disobedience was spiritual.
 - a. Man was separated from access to God because of sin.
 - b. Man had to confess his sin, called repentance.
 - c. Man had to have a basis for the forgiveness of his sin, in this case the blood of an animal.
 2. The ultimate death would be physical.
 - a. Abel was the first to die at the hand of his brother Cain.
 - b. The fifth chapter of Genesis records the death of every person thereafter without exception.

- c. The death of every person throughout the generations is a testimony to the fall.
 - * "Therefore you shall say this word to them: “Let my eyes flow with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people Has been broken with a mighty stroke, with a very severe blow. Jer 14:17

- B. The fall destroyed man’s potential to live eternally in the physical state.
 1. These bodies grow, develop and mature from birth till the early twenties.
 - a. As babies and young children we are totally dependent on our parents for the care of our bodies.
 - b. As teen-agers we are putting all our energies to live for our bodies.
 - c. As we enter our our twenties we are the recipients of what we have put into our bodies and are at their peak.
 2. These bodies then have to be exercised and cared for to maintained the vigor and appearance.
 - a. The women have to care for their bodies after they have babies for their firm bodies have been rearranged and added to.
 - 1) Women deal with this by exercise and diet.

- 2) Women today are now dealing with it be plastic surgery.
- b. The men begin to get rolls and jelly bellies.
 - 1) Men deal with this problem with exercise and diet also.
 - 2) Men are having more plastic surgery done on them today than ever before.
- 3. These bodies very consistently and progressively are decaying and dying.
 - a. We start out with nice smooth baby skin.
 - b. We move into the teens with a blemished skin but firm and toned.
 - c. We grow into a wrinkly, stretched out flabby and saggy skin that drapes over our body.
- 4. These bodies will one day be put in the grave as return to dust.
 - a. It will turn cold hours after death.
 - b. It will begin to decay.
 - c. It will turn to dust.
- C. The fall destroyed man's fellowship with man.
 - 1. The fall brought about in man a sin-nature.
 - a. The propensity to sin as a habit of life.
 - b. The potential for error and imperfection.
 - c. The proclivity to self love.
 - 2. The fall brought about pride in man.

- a. Pride does not acknowledge one's faults easily.
 - b. Pride does not confess one's failure often.
 - c. Pride always blames others for one's actions or consequences.
 - d. Pride alienates man from other men.
- D. The fall destroyed man's the physical world as God created it.
- 1. The earth inherited thorns and thistles.
 - 2. The environment after the food was different.
 - 3. The topography also was different.
 - 4. The animals were fierce after the flood.
 - 5. The inhuman treatment of man by man would be incredible.
 - 6. The rebellion of man against God would only increase.

The weeping of Jesus revealed His grief over the results of the fall!

IV. The weeping of our lives must be judged.

- A. God is aware of all of our tears.
 - 1. David said, " You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?" Ps. 56:8
 - 2. Isaiah declared that when Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and

prayed to the LORD, and said,
 "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I
 have walked before You in truth and with
 a loyal heart, and have done what is good
 in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept
 bitterly. And the word of the LORD
 came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and tell
 Hezekiah, `Thus says the LORD, the
 God of David your father: "I have heard
 your prayer, I have seen your tears;
 surely I will add to your days fifteen
 years. Is. 38:2-5

3. Some of our tears are due to our own foolishness and disobedience.
 - a. For flirting with sin.
 - b. For throwing away our sexual purity.
 - c. For having a child out of wedlock.
 - d. For regretting past decisions.
 - e. For getting involved with the wrong crowd.
 - f. For being involved with drugs.
4. Some of our tears have been for sheer joy and happiness.
 - a. For being joined to love ones we have not seen for a long time.
 - b. For the reconciliation of a child or a marriage partner.
 - c. For the birth of a child.
 - d. For the negative results of cancer to a love one.
 - e. For memories of love ones who you love and miss.

- B. God honors only tears that are of true genuine repentance not hypocritical ones or mere sorrow for the consequences
 1. Jeremiah declares, "In those days and in that time," says the LORD, "The children of Israel shall come, They and the children of Judah together; With continual weeping they shall come, And seek the LORD their God. Jer 50:4
 2. Joel says, "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." Joel 2:12
 3. Malachi records the insincere tears as well as God's rebuke, "And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says that

He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously." Mal. 2:13-16

4. The Psalmist tells us, "Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy." Ps. 126:5
 - a. Peter wept bitterly as he denied his Lord from a sincere heart and was restored to full joy. Matt. 26:75
 - b. Jeremiah has been called the weeping prophet as he wept of over the condition of Israel, "Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people! Oh, that I had in the wilderness A lodging place for travelers; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men. Jer. 9:1-2
 - 1) Paul contrasts the two as godly sorrow producing repentance to salvation, not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world produces death". 2Cor. 6:10
 - 2) For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These,

O God, You will not despise. Ps. 51:16-17

- C. God promises three things about affliction, weeping and tears.
 1. The believer is to remember not to lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2Cor. 4:14-5:1
* Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:31-32
 2. Those who do not repent from their sins and are saved will be cast into utter darkness with the hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 8:12, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30
 3. Those who do repent from their sins and are saved will be comforted and their

tears will be wiped away from their eyes.
Rev. 7:17

The weeping of our lives must be judged!

Into the life of Charles Lamb there came a deep attachment to a woman, but he willingly forsook marriage when he saw the need of his own family. Brother, son, and husband, he became the guardian angel of that home, and especially of his sister Mary, who was at times mentally deranged.

After she had stabbed her mother to death in one of her mad moments, Charles Lamb stripped himself for his sister Mary as Jonathan stripped himself for David; and for eight and thirty years he watched over her with a tender solicitude. A friend tells how he would sometimes see the brother and sister walking hand in hand across the field to the old asylum, both their faces bathed in tears. A sad story, and yet a grand story. # 3209

Conclusion

The weeping of Jesus was for three reasons.

- I. To reveal His humanity.
- II. To reveal His disdain for hypocrisy.
- III. To reveal His grief over the results of the fall.

Tears are a gift from God, don't waste them!