

## IMAGO DEI – The Grief of God

April 1-2, 2023

**Luke 19:35-40 (NIV)** - They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As He went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you”, He replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out”.

**Luke 19:41-44 (NIV)** – As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you”.

“Even when God’s judgment is perfectly just and righteous, His heart weeps at the bringing of the judgment” – **David Guzik**

**Genesis 6:5-6 (NKJV)** – “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart”.

**Genesis 6:3 (NKJV)** – And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years”.

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**Exodus 12:2-3, 5-7 (NIV)** – “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household” – “The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then, they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs

**John 12:1 (NIV)** – “Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead”.

**John 12:12-13 (NIV)** – The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!”

**John 11:21-26 (NIV)** – “Lord”, Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask”. Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again”. Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day”. Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**John 11:33-37 (NIV)** – When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” He asked. “Come and see, Lord”, they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

“**weeping**” = Greek *klaio* - “to weep aloud, mourn, lament, express uncontainable grief”; “**deeply moved**” = Greek *embrimaomai* - “to be moved with anger; to groan”

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“Christ does not come to the sepulcher as an idle spectator, but like a wrestler preparing for the contest. Therefore, no wonder that He groans again, for the violent tyranny of death which He had come to overcome stands before His eyes” – **John Calvin**

**John 11:40-43 (NIV)** – Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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”. When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14,18 (NIV)** – “Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him” – “Therefore, encourage one another with these words”.

“The road of sorrow is the road to heaven, but there are wells of refreshing water all along the route” – **Charles Spurgeon**

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