

Jesus Wept!

Jn 11:33-35

Introduction:

1. Just two little words – the shortest verse in the Bible
2. Its not just the brevity that gets our attention, its what the verse says –
Jesus wept
32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, 34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept.
- a. Of course, people weep – people weep for all kinds of reasons
- b. Some weep when they are happy or surprised or excited
- c. Mostly, people weep when they are hurting
3. The striking thing here is that it is Jesus who is weeping
- a. In the beginning of this gospel, Jesus is shown to be the Creator of the universe and self-existent
- b. He teaches, He prays, He cleanses the temple, He calms the storm
- c. He heals the sick, He feeds a multitude, He turns water into wine,
- d. He causes the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear
- e. He does everything that you would expect the Son of God to do
4. But here we see Him weeping
- a. This surprises some people
- b. How can God cry? They wonder.
- c. God ought to behave differently – What kind of God weeps?
5. The OT said that His Son would be a man of sorrows – Isa 53:3
Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...
6. Why did Jesus weep?
- a. Some argue that Jesus was crying for the crowd, their lack of faith, He knew that the people didn't understand Him or His mission
- b. Some say Jesus wept because He hated to bring Lazarus back from heaven – He had to bring Lazarus back to demonstrate his power
- c. Some say that Jesus was weeping at the evil of death and sin
- d. Some say that Jesus was weeping for himself. He anticipated His own death. He knew that the miracle he was about to perform would inflame the situation and turn the Pharisees against Him
- e. Jesus wept because people He cared about were hurting
7. Let us examine some lessons we can glean from Jesus wept.

I. It is Proper to Weep on Occasions

A. The Lord Put That Emotion in Us

1. Jesus was a man and he had the emotions of the flesh and one of them is weeping.
2. There is nothing wrong with us weeping on occasion
 - a) *Sometimes a friend or relative will die and we might weep*
3. Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha and Lazarus
 - a) *He would stay with them from time to time*
 - b) *His dear friend Lazarus had died*
 - c) *Vs 33 tells us that Jesus saw Mary weeping and He saw the Jews weeping and He groaned in His spirit and he wept also*
4. Weeping is part of the healing process
 - a) *Sometimes it is good to have a good cry*
 - b) *When we are distressed*
 - c) *When we are sorrowful*
 - d) *When we are hurting*
5. It is also a stress reliever
6. It doesn't mean that we are weak when weep
7. It doesn't mean that we lack faith – it means that we are hurting

B. Jesus Wept Over the City of Jerusalem – Lu 19:41-44

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. 43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

1. Jesus looked out into the future and saw that Jerusalem would be destroyed
2. That happened in 70 AD when Roman General Titus attacked
3. Jesus wept over their spiritual condition and the destruction that would soon come

II. We are To Weep with Those Who Weep – Rom 12:15

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

A. Jesus Practiced This Instruction from Paul to the Romans

1. Jesus was moved at the hurting of Mary and Martha
2. He saw the sorrow and the suffering that Mary and Martha were going through – he wept
3. He knew that he was going to raise Lazarus and that is why Jesus delayed

4. He groaned in His spirit
 - a) *Jesus was moved as he saw the sorrow that the great enemy caused*
 - b) *He had not faced death in heaven – but here on a sin-cursed earth – Jesus faced that great enemy – death*
5. He did not groan in his spirit because he was angry at Mary / Martha
 - a) *There was a lack of faith on their part*
 - b) *He was angry at the sorrow that is caused by death*
 - c) *Death was ultimately caused by sin and He is angry at sin*

B. We Are to Practice This Instruction Too

1. Rejoice with those who rejoice
2. Weep with those who weep
3. When people are sorrowing they don't need you to preach a sermon to them at that particular time
4. Sometime someone will say (trying to be helpful) "Don't weep we know that they are with the Lord"
 - a) *It does give us comfort when we know that the individual was a believer – and we know he's in heaven*
 - b) *But they will be missed here and it is not wrong to weep*
5. We're not to sorrow as those who have no hope – 1Thess 4:13
6. We'll see them again but that doesn't mean that we don't weep here
7. Sometimes all you can do is to sit there and weep with the sorrowing
8. We are acquainted with Job and what he went through
 - a) *He lost his wealth in one day*
 - b) *He lost his 7 sons and 3 daughters in one day*
 - c) *He lost his health*
 - d) *His wife turned against him*
 - e) *Three friends come to comfort Job – but they end up being miserable comforters accusing him of sin*
9. Job's account in God's Word has ministered to many believers who were going through hard times
10. The friends showed up – Job 2:12-13 ←
 - a) *They went to him – didn't stay away – wanted to be there*
 - (1) Maybe they didn't know what to say
 - (2) If you can meet a need – then meet the need
 - (3) If the kids need to be babysat, then babysit them
 - (4) If they need food to eat – provide it for them
 - (5) If they need dishes washed, then wash them
 - b) *They mourned – they wept with him*
 - c) *They sorrowed with him – rent their mantles, sprinkled dust on...*
11. This is what we are to do – show love / compassion / that we care

III. Jesus Wept Because He was a High Priest Who is Touched with the Feelings of Our Infirmities – Heb 4:15

15 For we have not a 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.

A. The OT High Priest Was Sometimes Out of Touch

1. He was in the temple all the time
2. He wasn't out where the people were
3. One could not take his sorrows to the Jewish high priest
 - a) *He was busy*
 - b) *He was a political official by this time*
 - c) *He had official duties*
 - d) *He was not available*

B. Our High Priest Can Sympathize With Us

1. When we're hurting then He hurts too
2. Just like Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus
3. Jesus knows what it is like because he experienced hurt and sorrow when he was here
4. Isaiah said that Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
 - a) *No one has ever gone through what Jesus went through when he was here*
 - b) *He was alone and forsaken by His heavenly Father*
 - c) *If you are a believer, then you'll never be forsaken by the Father*
 - d) *He will never leave you nor forsake you – but Jesus was forsaken*
 - e) *Jesus knows what hurting and loneliness and sorrow feels like – he went through it*
5. When you see Jesus weeping in John 11 it is because he cares, He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities
 - a) *When you suffer it touches Jesus*
 - b) *When you sorrow it touches Jesus*
6. Don't let the devil tell you that Jesus doesn't care ← See hymn
7. That is what we see in Jn 11:35

C. He Can Succour Us When We are Tempted – Heb 2:17-18

1. Succour – literally, to run to, to run to the aid of someone, help, assist
2. Jesus can come to our aid
3. He wants us to come to him when we are hurting
4. He can give us grace and strength
5. The worst thing to do when you are going through a hard time is to run away from the Lord
 - a) *That is where your comfort lies*
 - b) *He is our source of strength and power*

D. Let Us Go To Jesus Since He is So Sympathetic – Heb 4:16

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.

1. An invitation - "come boldly"
 - a) *The Greek word means to "draw near"*
 - b) *We can come with boldness since Christ turned the throne of judgment into a throne of grace*
2. A throne - "throne of grace"
 - a) *The Jewish sacrificial system had no throne of grace*
 - b) *Since Jesus died, the throne of God has become a place where grace is dispensed*
 - c) *Esther and Mordecai worried about approaching the king - but we don't have to worry about being accepted by our king*
3. Mercy for my past - "obtain mercy"
 - a) *We all need mercy - [Tit 3:5](#)*

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
 - b) *Many people laugh at sin and minimize it*
 - c) *David's request for mercy is seen in [Ps 51:1-4](#)*

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.
4. Grace for my present -- [Eph 2:8-9](#)

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

 - a) *God's Riches at Christ's Expense*
 - b) *We need grace daily - [2Co 12:9](#)*

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

E. Let Us Cast All Our Cares on Him – 1Pet 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1. Cast all care on Him because He cares for you.
2. NO one every cared for you like Jesus

12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. 13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song?
As the burdens press and the cares distress
And the way grows weary and long.
Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With the nameless dreaded fear
As the daylight fades into deep night shades
Does He care enough to be near?
Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptations strong?
And for my deep grief there is no relief
And my tears flow all the night long.
Does Jesus care when I've said good-bye
Do the dearest on earth to me?
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks.
Is it aught to Him – does He care?
Oh yes he cares - I know he cares
His heart is touched with my grief
When the days are weary and the long nights dreary
I know my Savior cares.

Don't let anyone tell you that Jesus is too busy to listen

Frank E. Graeff was a minister in the Methodist denomination and served some of its leading churches, in the Philadelphia Conference. Throughout the district, he was known as the sunshine minister.

In spite of his outwardly-cheery disposition and winsome personality, Graeff was often called upon to go through severe testing experiences in his life. It was while passing through such a test and experiencing severe despondency, doubt and physical agony, that Mr. Graeff wrote his famous hymn. Rev. Graeff turned to the Scriptures for solace and strength. First Peter 5:7 became especially meaningful to him during this particular struggle: "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you. The phrase, "He careth for you," spoke deeply to his need. To experience times of questions and even doubts regarding the nearness of God, as Frank Graeff did in the verses of this hymn, is only human and normal. But it is only as a believer comes through such a struggle, with the firm conviction in the chorus of this hymn—O yes He cares, I know He cares—that a child of God can be truly victorious.