

We return this week for the 4th time, to this 11th chapter, and while our text is verses 28-37, I really want to narrow it to the shortest verse in the Bible, v35—"Jesus wept"—and I want to consider this text under two main headings—Reasons for Jesus Weeping, and Lessons from Jesus Weeping...

CHS—"I have often felt vexed with the man, whoever he was, who chopped up the New Testament into verses. He seems to have let the hatchet drop indiscriminately here and there; but I forgive him a great deal of blundering for his wisdom in letting these two words make a verse by themselves: 'Jesus wept.' This is a diamond of the first water, and it cannot have another gem set with it, for it is unique. Shortest of verses in words, but where is there a longer one in sense? Add a word to the verse, and it would be out of place. No, let it stand in solitary sublimity and simplicity. You may even put a note of exclamation after it, and let it stand in capitals, JESUS WEPT..."

### I. Reasons for His Weeping

### II. Lessons from His Weeping

#### I. Reasons for His Weeping

##### A. To reveal His affection

1. Having gone out to meet Jesus, Martha then finds her sister Mary, v28—"The Teacher has come and is calling you..."
2. V29—"As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him"—that is the place where Martha met Him...
3. V31—"Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, She is going to the tomb to weep there..."
4. The Jews assumed Mary was returning to the tomb to mourn for Lazarus, but instead she was going out to Jesus...
5. V32—"Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died..."
6. These are similar words that Martha said to Christ earlier (v21)—and are an expression of grief as well confidence in His love and ability...
7. V33—"Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled..."
8. V34—"And He said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept"—that is, in rout to the tomb...
9. V36—"Then the Jews said, See how He loved him"—in other words, His tears where an expression of LOVE...
10. Now—before I go any further, I think it's important to here remind you a few things about the Person of Christ...
11. If you remember, Christ is ONE Person in TWO natures—He is fully God and fully Man—but in ONE Person...
12. His HUMAN nature—in His incarnation He assumed to Himself a real human nature—both body and soul...
13. It's for this reason He felt every human emotion, without sin—grief, pain, hunger, fatigue, love, and even death...
14. His DIVINE nature—He is fully and eternally divine, the second Person of the Trinity, the eternally begotten Son of God...
15. It's for this reason, with regards to His divine nature, He was all-knowing, all present, unable to tire and die...
16. The divine nature, the very essence of God, does NOT change, He doesn't grow tired, and He does NOT weep...

17. His ONE Person—both of these natures comprise a single Person—a Person who is fully human and fully divine...
18. Thus, an action or activity that may be strictly true of one nature, is attributed to the whole Person, the GodMan...
19. Everything He did, He did as a single Person, the GodMan—even though some things, were strictly true of one nature...
20. Thus—our Savior's actual tears were from His humanity—they were the result of biological and physical processes...
21. But—they were expressive of His Person—they communicated or illustrated what was true of Him as a Person...
22. Thus—before going further, let me briefly suggest that in Christ's moral behavior, we behold perfect humanity and eternal divinity...
23. [a] In Christ's tears we behold perfect humanity—in Christ we have the perfect example for human emotions...
24. John Calvin—"The Son of God, having clothed Himself with our flesh, of His own accord clothed Himself also with human feelings, so that He did not differ at all from His brethren, sin only excepted..."
25. Our Savior took to Himself TRUE humanity, sin excepted—He experienced every human sinless emotion...
26. In Christ we not only behold TRUE humanity, but PERFECT humanity—His emotions were without flaw...
27. Thus, let me say in passing—this is very GOOD NEWS for us, because oftentimes our emotions are way off...
28. Oftentimes we are far too emotional when we shouldn't be, and at other times, we lack the proper emotions...
29. Have you ever become angry for sinful reasons, and have you ever failed to rejoice when it was time to rejoice...
30. Well—our Savior was never angry wrongly, and He was never indifferent, when He should weep or rejoice...
31. This of course, is very UNLIKE us, and it's for this reason He became a Man, to fulfill the law on our behalf...
32. [b] In Christ's tears we behold eternal divinity—every moral activity of our Savior, reveals something about the nature of God...
33. When He entered the temple and cleansed it from injustice—we behold something of the JUSTICE of God...
34. When He feed the hungry and healed the sick—we behold something of the MERCY and COMPASSION of God...
35. And now, when He weeps over Lazarus—we learn something of God's character—His tears are highly instructive...
36. Richard Philips—"John 11:35 might be the shortest verse in the English Bible. But for those who want to know the heart of God, the words 'Jesus wept' are among the greatest..."
37. Now—I want to suggest that our Savior's tears teach us three things about perfect humanity and eternal divinity...
38. Or, perhaps put more simply—I want to suggest our Savior wept to teach us (or reveal to us)—three things (His affection, compassion, and vexation)...
39. Our Savior wept, in the first place, because He loved Lazarus, and Lazarus had died, and thus Lazarus was gone...
40. Yes, it's true, our Savior knew He would raise Him again—but, the fact that His friend was gone, brought tears to His eyes...
41. Oh dear brethren, I want you to look at these tears of our Savior, for they are in the first place TEARS of LOVE...
42. [1] He loved Him personally, v36—"See how He loved him"—fewer truths are more glorious, than Christ's personal love for His people...
43. My dear friends, it is a wonderful fact, that Christ loves His entire bride, and He's loved them from eternity...

44. But—it's also a wonderful fact, that though He loves ALL of His people, He loves EACH of His people personally...
45. Gal.2:20—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me..."
46. I don't intend to sound trite—but if we had lived in the 1st century and died, Christ would have wept for us...
47. Does Christ love all of His people—YES—He loved them all—but He loves them with a particular and personal love (He knows them all by name)...
48. [2] He loved Him intimately, v36—"See how He loved him"—let me remind you of a distinction between love of benevolence and compliancy...
49. These, admittedly are old terms, but because I have used them so often, I hope they are becoming familiar to you...
50. [a] A love of benevolence—this refer to a tangible love—a love expressed through acts of kindness and mercy...
51. [b] A love of compliancy—this refers to a love of delight—a love that finds satisfaction in the person loved...
52. For example—I am commanded to love all of my neighbors—I am to show love to every woman on my block...
53. But surely—I am not to love them in the same way I love my wife—I love my wife with a love of compliancy (of delight)...
54. Now—obviously, Christ loved Lazarus with both kinds of love—He loved him with a benevolent and complacent love...
55. But I suggest, that the love Christ had for Lazarus was a love of compliancy—a love that delighted in him...
56. [3] He loved Him obviously, v36—"See how He loved him"—it was evident and obvious—Christ loved him...
57. The way in which our Savior acted, made evident for everyone, that He in fact loved him intimately and personally...
58. Here—I want to suggest, we learn from this event, that it's never wrong to let proper emotion be seen by others...
59. I love letting my wife and children know I love them—either by verbal statements or tangible expressions...
60. Our Savior would have the entire world know of His love for Lazarus—He was in no way ashamed to make it evident...

B. To reveal His compassion

1. Our Savior's weeping, not only reveals His affection FOR his people, but also His sympathy WITH His people...
2. V33—"Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled..."
3. I suggest our Savior's tears were the result of Mary's tears—He wept because of compassion for Mary and Martha...
4. The Greek word in v33 is different from that in v35—the word in v33 means—"to weep, wail, or to lament..."
5. It refers to open weeping or lamentation—it describes weeping that is uncontrollable—it describes deep emotion...
6. The Jews, and Middle Easterns in general, were deeply emotional people—their funerals were characterized by great lamentation...
7. In other words, Mary and the other Jews, were openly wailing and weeping, as the result of great grief and sorrow...
8. But there is another Greek word in v33 that is important to this point—"Therefore, when Jesus SAW her weeping..."

9. The word simply means—"to take notice of, to perceive, to behold"—our Savior took notice of Mary's weeping...
10. Perhaps I can put it this way—Christ's tears were tears of compassion, in that, He wept with those who wept...
11. [1] God sympathizes with His people—remember, the moral behavior of our Savior reveals truth about God...
12. Ex.3:7—"And the LORD said: I Have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows..."
13. God was concerned with their sorrows—He wasn't far off, unconcerned or disinterested—but He knew their sorrows...
14. Ps.56:8—"You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book (of decree)..."
15. The imagery is likely to grapes whose juices are bottled after pressing—so too, God bottles the tears of His people, pressed from them because of affliction...
16. Thus, in essence in asking God to put my tears into Your bottle, he means, look upon me in my time of distress...
17. My friends, there is a sense in which not a single tear of God's people goes unnoticed, or perhaps we could say—un-bottled...
18. [2] Christ sympathizes with His people—remember, the Son of God, took to Himself a sinless human nature...
19. And thus, now as Man, He is able to sympathize with His people, in a way—He could not and did not before...
20. This is Paul's point in Hebrews chapter 5—that every high priest is taken from among men, to represent men...
21. Heb.5:2—"He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness..."
22. William Hendriksen—"They were not the tears of the professional mourner, nor those of the sentimentalist, but those of the pure and holy, sympathizing High priest..."
23. Heb.4:15—"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin..."
24. Matt.8:16-17—"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses..."
25. How did Christ bear our infirmities and sicknesses—but by way of sympathy—He felt the weight of these things...
26. Thus—our Savior as Man, as the GodMan, is now in heaven as our sinless, sympathetic, and loving High Priest...
27. [3] Christians sympathize with other people—by this I mean, Christ sets the perfect example for His people...
28. Rom.12:15—"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep"—that is, sympathize with them...
29. Oh brethren, it is nothing less than a mark of depravity, to look upon the sorrows of others with little or no pain...
30. J.C. Ryle—"There is nothing wrong or wicked in being greatly moved by the sight of sorrow, so long as we keep our feelings under control. To be always cold, unfeeling, and un-sympathizing may appear to some very dignified and philosophical. But though it may suit a Stoic, it is not consistent with the character of a Christian. Sympathy is not sinful, but Christ-like..."

#### C. To reveal His vexation

1. V33—"Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled..."
2. [1] The FACT of His vexation—this is seen in two phrases—"He groaned in the spirit" and "was troubled..."

3. [a] He groaned in the spirit—that is, He groaned in His human soul—the word "groaned" means—"to be deeply moved with anger..."
4. [b] He was troubled—this word means—"to stir up or agitate"—He soul was unsettled, it was greatly bothered...
5. Thus, these two phrases describe great vexation of spirit, agitation of soul—anger, displeasure, and disapproval...
6. [2] The REASON for His vexation—why did He groan and why was He troubled—there are two possible answers...
7. [a] The unbelief of the Jews—that is, He groaned and was deeply troubled, because of Mary, Martha, and the Jews...
8. Most of the Jews didn't believe at all, and Mary and Martha believed, but they also struggled with unbelief...
9. Now, let me just say, this option is possible—it's certainly true—there was plenty unbeliever among these people...
10. [b] The presence of death—that is, there was the presence of death, which also relates to the cause of death—SIN...
11. Richard Philips—"It is death itself that rouses Jesus' anger" Herman Ridderbos—"Jesus' emotion is the loathing of everything that is in him against the power of death..."
12. B.B. Warfield—"Jesus approached the grave of Lazarus in a state, not of uncontrollable grief but of inexpressible anger...The emotion which tore his breast and clamoured for utterance was just rage...It is death that is the object of his wrath, and behind death him who has the power of death, and whom he had come into the world to destroy. Tears of sympathy may fill his eyes, but ...his soul is held by rage, and he advances to the tomb, in Calvin's words, 'as a champion who prepares for conflict'..."
13. CHS—"He now stood face to face with the last enemy, death. He saw what sin had done in destroying life, and even in corrupting the fair handiwork of God in the human body; He marked, also, the share which Satan had in all this, and His indignation was aroused; yea, His whole nature was stirred..."
14. Thus—we learn, our Savior wept, in part, for the tragic results that sin has brought upon this depraved world...
15. This truly brethren, is a very mysterious scene—the Resurrection and the Life weeping at the presence of death...
16. V38—"Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb"—it was death that caused Him to groan...
17. And accordingly, He left for the grave to defeat death—this was the cause of His righteous anger and indignation...
18. In fact, He would leave Bethany and enter Jerusalem for the very same purpose—that He might destroy death...
19. You know, there is a sense in which our Savior went to Jerusalem not only because of love but righteous anger...
20. Rom.8:22-23—"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body..."

## II. Lessons from His Weeping

### A. Weeping is universal

1. As I said last week, there is a sense in which this entire world is one big Bethany—a house of misery or affliction...

### B. Weeping is temporal

1. There is a coming a time when every tear will be dried, the world will be redeemed, and there will be no more Bethany...