

**RCC Devotional**  
**John 11:35**  
**Week of April 16**  
*Jesus Wept*

John 11:35 is one of if not the shortest verse in the English Bible, yet it is packed with so much more than these two simple words. We know from Isaiah and Psalms that our Messiah was a man of sorrows and that our God is a compassionate God.

*Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Psalm 103:13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

In context, this passage is during the time when His friend Lazarus of Bethany had 'fallen asleep' after an illness. Jesus was notified by Lazarus' sisters Mary and Martha days earlier that Lazarus was ill. Jesus purposefully delayed visiting until four days after Lazarus died. We know that our Lord could have healed him from a distance, Matthew 8:13 *And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed."* *And the servant was healed at that very moment*, yet he did not. Jesus was purposeful in His timing for He knew He was going to perform a miracle of raising Lazarus from death to life displaying His power over death and ultimately foreshadowing what was to come, the ultimate defeat of death by our Lord.

Jesus came upon Martha, Mary and other Jews grieving and weeping over the loss of Lazarus and His love for them came through in His tears. Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* This compassionate response is such a human response. Jesus knew that Lazarus would be raised from death and that the tears of sorrow would be transformed into tears of joy. That laughter, joy, and worship would commence soon, yet he was moved to shed tears and share in their grief.

There is a sense in which the Love that Jesus has for His people moves Him to grieve when we are grieving, but the tears that He shed may be because after all that His disciples and friends have seen and all they know about Him they still had a lack of faith and understanding of who He is and what He can accomplish. Christ must also grieve at the cost of sin, Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,* He will be suffering in a few days for the sins of His people, bearing the wrath of the Father to give them eternal life and communion with the Godhead. What great weeping and groaning our Savior went through in the Garden preparing for what He came to do.

Jesus Wept – when the person responsible for dividing the word of God into verses went about His work, whether you agree with all of the divisions or not, he rightly gave these two words their own verse division. We can pass over these two words without much thought, yet what a missed opportunity to glimpse the nature of our God. The humanity on display should warm our hearts and cause us to love others as He has loved us. What a great love He has shown us – oh to see Him face to face when he will be wiping our tears from our face, Revelation 21:4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."* Let us worship this God who cares for us even in our rebellion, even in our inability to love Him as He deserves. Our hearts and worship are cold and meager compared to what He deserves. May we strive to live our lives in deeper communion with this God who loves us and wants us to come to Him. Luke 15:20 *And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.* The prodigal son is a picture of us and the father is a picture of God and His love for us, turn to this God and He will run to you and embrace you with His love and compassion.

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). And when that morning comes, "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore" (Revelation 21:4).

-Written by Calvin Patrick