

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

March 29, 2020

Issue 13

Why Did Jesus Weep?

By: Ronnie Scherffius

One of the most well-known verses, and the shortest in our English Bibles, is “Jesus wept” (Jn 11:35). How incredible that the gospel which most forcefully expresses Jesus’ deity (cf. 1:1-3, 14; 5:17-18; et al), in such a simple and beautiful way portrays the depth of His humanity! But have you ever pondered upon the thought of “*why*” did Jesus weep? At first this may seem to be a nonsensical question, for the context of the statement is the death of a dear friend (Jn. 11:5). However, one of the greatest and most encouraging lessons for us may be realized if we will but *consider* this question: Why did Jesus weep? Let’s note four possibilities.

First, it may be that Jesus wept **because He was saddened** over the death of a close friend (Jn. 11:5). Again, such would demonstrate the *humanity of Jesus*. Paul wrote of Jesus’ humanity when he highlighted that Jesus, “was made of the seed of David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Hebrews writer also spoke of Jesus humanity affirming: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same” (Heb. 2:14). Because Jesus being Deity took on the nature of man, we know that our High Priest can sympathize with our sorrows and struggles (Heb. 4:15). However, should we conclude that Jesus wept because He was saddened over the death of a close friend when He knew that death was not the end (John 5:28-29; Luke 16)?

Second, it may be that Jesus wept **because He was grieving** with family over their loss. This would demonstrate Jesus’ *compassion-*

ate spirit for others. The gospel writers note the compassionate Christ on multiple occasions. Matthew wrote of Jesus’ compassion for the people because of their spiritual needs: “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36). Matthew also noted the Lord’s compassion for human suffering (Matt. 14:14) and Luke the physician recorded the compassionate Christ reacting to a widow’s loss of her only son (7:13). It is possible that Jesus wept with family over their loss. However, why would Jesus weep when He knew that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead?

Third, it may be that Jesus wept **because He was sorrowful** that He was about return Lazarus into a world of sin, suffering and temptation. This would emphasize that *Jesus understands* the difficulties humanity faces in a world filled with temptation. Again, the Hebrews writer affirmed, “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” (Heb. 4:15; emphasis mine - RLS). Jesus did not simply have knowledge of human suffering but by reason of common experience with man truly understands our weaknesses! To return Lazarus back into such a climate would certainly give occasion to cause the Son of man to weep.

Finally, it may be that Jesus wept **because of the state of mind** of those who, in the face of such an undeniable miracle, would nevertheless reject Him as their Savior. John

records just how filled with hate some were and just how far they would go to deny the Christ: "But the chief priests **consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death**; ¹¹Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus" (John 12:10-11). The ability of Jesus to weep even for those who continually deny Him demonstrates the *true love* that the "man of sorrow" had even for humanity.

What then is the conclusion of the whole matter? Why did Jesus weep? In the final analysis of things, the reason **why** Jesus wept is of very little consequence! What is significant to us is that Jesus did weep! The fact that Jesus wept demonstrates the love and concern of God for humanity! Jesus **does care** when we are saddened by death or struggling with earthly difficulties. Jesus **does care** that we live in a world of temptation, sorrow and suffering. Jesus **does understand** the feelings and infirmities of man because He walked where we walk! Jesus faced temptations. Jesus endured hardships. Jesus lost friends and even family to death. Why did Jesus weep? I do not know specifically, but I am thankful that He did!

God's Coronavirus Prep Guide

We are living in a historical moment right now. Very few, if any, have lived in a time of a global pandemic such as this. Thankfully, God has provided a guide to make sure you and your family are adequately prepared.

- Stop worrying (Matthew 6:25-34; Philipians 4:6-7).
- Call the Great Physician with comments and concerns (Psalm 103:2-3).
- Avoiding sin infected crowds (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- Wash your hands (James 4:8; Titus 3:5).
- Don't forget to sanitize (1 John 1:9).
- Let the light in (1 John 1:7).

- Practice healthy habits (Philippians 4:8-9).
- Exercise your godliness (1 Timothy 4:8).
- Eat healthy (Matthew 5:6).
- Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In the worst-case scenario, remember the end reward (Revelation 21:1ff).

Throughout time, Christians have had to endure some of the world's most dangerous and difficult situations. God didn't simply remove the threats. God cares, above all else, about our spiritual health. Let's do everything we can to keep ourselves and our loved ones spiritually clean.

-Selected-

Ebenezer

The people cried out to Samuel when the Philistines gathered against them for war. Samuel prayed for them and God responded to his prayer giving them a great victory. So that they would always remember this victory, Samuel set up a stone and called it "Ebenezer" (which means "stone of help").

I used to pray with a good friend and brother for different problems. We would keep these prayers on note cards. Over time we were able to go back and see prayers we had prayed and could see specific victories the Lord had won. Those cards became to us like Ebenezer stones, reminding us of God's mercy in our lives.

I now try to record my prayers in a prayer journal. Who knows what victories are being won by the Lord as these petitions reach his throne? Whatever the answers may be, I will have my Ebenezer stone to look back on and give glory to God!

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 29, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements:
Scripture Reading:

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread:
Fruit of the Vine:
Offering:
Assist:

Sunday Evening:

Prayer

A.M. Opening:
A.M. Closing:
P.M. Opening:
P.M. Closing:

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.:
Sun. P.M.:
Wednesday:

Ushers:

Wednesday Devotional:

Open/Close Building:

Sound System:

Greeters:

Prepare Communion:

****Per the Men's meeting held Wednesday evening, March 18, 2020, it was decided to suspend all services effective immediately due to the Coronavirus and resume services on Sunday, April 5, 2020 if the CDC guidelines have been lifted. ****

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Barbie Dolan, who has the flu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25: F.U.E.L Youth rally hosted by MidTown

AREA EVENTS

June 3-7: "Wait on the Lord" Men's Development conference in College Station.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Sandra Daltry (29); Faye Henderson (29); Ann Pantel (29)

**Sermons are available on
our website
www.midtowncoc.org
under Resources**

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 22, 2020

Bible Class.....
A.M. Worship.....
P.M. Worship.....
Wednesday Bible Class.....

Offering.....

Reading for this week:

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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