

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

30) Jesus Wept

'And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. 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"'

(John 11:28-31)

'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." Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"'

(John 11:32-37)

- ✓ She said the same words to Jesus as Martha did
- ✓ 'Weeping' here means to wail or cry aloud
- ✓ Here we see the **humanity** of Jesus. Confronted by grief, He 1) groaned in His spirit (to snort as a horse, denoting displeasure or anger); 2) was troubled., i.e. shook with the pain of grief He encountered; 3) wept (lit. burst into tears)
- ✓ The Greek concept of God was *apatheia*, i.e., no ability to express emotion. They believed in a **passionless God**. *'...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear' (Heb.5:7)*

- ✓ **Jesus shared in the grief of those who mourn. He would not raise Lazarus until He had entered in spirit into the seriousness of the awfulness of death.** *'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"' (Matt.8:17). **He felt the burden of sickness before He removed it***
- ✓ **Because of His deity, He was able to do something about their grief**

'Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"'
(John 11:38-40)

- ✓ **Jesus again groaned. He groaned with all of creation at the suffering caused by sin. '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...Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered' (Rom.8:22,23&26)**

- ✓ **He wanted to do the miracle, but Martha objected to the stone being removed. She probably thought that Jesus was so taken with grief that He wanted one last look at His dear friend Lazarus**
- ✓ ***'Did I not say to you...?'* (He had already said they would see the glory of God. John 11:4). He brings her (and us) back to His Word**

'Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go"'

(John 11:41-44)

- ✓ **Jesus didn't need to pray, because He knew already what the Father was going to do. He prayed because they believed that God does not hear sinners. So, when Lazarus rose from the dead all could see He was not a sinner but was sent by the Father**
- ✓ **He commanded Lazarus to come forth. 'Lazarus! This way out!' If He hadn't named Lazarus, all would have risen!**

***This is a picture of the day of resurrection, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live...Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation' (John 5:25,28-29). 'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first' (1 Thes.4:16)**

***'Loose him and let him go'. When Christ returns, we shall be raised, loosed from mortality and corruption and go with Him back to heaven**

A Summary of the Seven Signs

1) 'He turned the water into wine'

2) Healing of the nobleman's son. Faith is our response to God's grace

3) Healing at Bethesda. Rise up and walk.

4) Jesus is the bread of heaven

5) Walking on water. All things are under His feet

6) Healing of the man born blind. When our eyes are opened there is an increasing revelation of Jesus. The man...a prophet...from God...Son of God...Lord

7) When Christ returns, the dead in Christ will hear His voice, be raised, loosed from mortality and go with Him back to heaven

'Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation"'

(John 11:44-48)

***Again, a divided response, 1) Many believed; 2) others went and informed the Pharisees**

***The Sanhedrin feared an overwhelming wave of support for Him resulting in the Romans taking control of all aspects of their life, especially their temple. The leaders would lose political power**

***'*Our place*' was the temple. They claimed for themselves what belonged to God. The holy things were, in their eyes, their special property**

***But by the time this gospel was written the very things they feared came to pass. The Roman army came, destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple and carried away the whole nation into captivity**

'And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad'

(John 11:49-52)

***The Sadducees were known for their rudeness in speaking with others. Caiaphas said, 'You don't know what you are talking about. Jesus should be executed to save the people'**

***John was careful to give the credit to the *office*, not to the *man*. He didn't realize that he was speaking prophetically. (See Mark 15:3)**

***Both remarks were made in ignorance yet had profound meaning, concerning His death for the nation and His gathering of the Gentiles. Compare Balaam who also prophesied against his will**

***The greatest crime ever done in the world led to the greatest blessing ever given to the world**

'Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples'
(John 11:53-54)

'And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?" Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him'
(John 11:55-57)

***The miracle occurred when the city was filled with pilgrims. Thus, the triumphant entry**

***No Israelite who was ceremonially defiled could keep the Passover at the regular time. To avoid this delay many Jews came up to Jerusalem before the Passover to be purified**

***The very ones who were so careful about ceremonial purity, were willing to shed the blood of the Son of God**

***A warrant was issued for His arrest**

***Behind the edict of the Council we see the enmity of Satan. The resurrection-power of the Son of God had brought to a head the hatred of him who had the power of death**