

# The Tears Of Jesus

**Introduction.** There are three occasions in the New Testament where Jesus shed tears. All three occasions have their own deep significance. They prove that Jesus was a “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” as was foretold by the prophets (Isaiah 53:3). He shed tears, as all humans do from time to time.

People who weep do not generally have much of a following. People are looking for laughter and lightheartedness instead. An old poem says, “Laugh and the whole world laughs with you. Weep and you weep alone.”

## I. *Tears Of Sympathy -- Jesus Weeps At The Grave Of Lazarus*

- A. The tears of Jesus on this occasion prove His humanity (John 11:32-44).
- B. You would not think that men would have problems with this, but they do.
  1. Gnosticism said that flesh is evil; therefore, Jesus did not come in the flesh (2 John 7).
  2. The book of John, whose main theme is the deity of Jesus, also shows that He was a human being like you and I.
    - a) He was subject to weariness, pain, misery, death, etc., as all humans are (John 4:6-7; 11:33, 35; 19:28).
    - b) The word “flesh” has various meanings in the New Testament, but in John 1:14 it refers to human nature.
  3. Not only does the expression, “Jesus wept” show that He was a human being, but it shows that He was a person of tenderness and compassion.
    - a) It showed His love for Lazarus, Martha, and Mary (John 11:5, 36).
    - b) It shows that He will likewise have sympathy for us (Hebrews 4:15-16).
    - c) He came to bind up the broken hearted (Luke 4:18-19).
    - d) He invites us to come for consolation (Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 3:20).
- C. We need to be more like Jesus (1 Peter 2:21).
  1. We need to sympathize with those in trouble and distress (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:25-26).
  2. Jesus did more than weep, and we ought to do what we can to dry the tears of others (1 John 3:17).

## II. ***Tears Of Anguish -- Jesus Weeps At The Prospect Of His Own Death***

- A. Without doubt, this refers to the events in the garden of Gethsemane (Hebrews 5:5-9; cf. Matthew 26:36-45; Luke 22:41-46).
- B. As a man, facing the cross would produce the hardest mental anguish that any human being had ever known.
  - 1. His willingness to redeem fallen man, and His unfailing determination to do the will of the Father, led Him to calmly drink the bitter cup of the cross.
  - 2. He also knew of the glory that was beyond the cross (Luke 24:26; Hebrews 12:2).
- C. Thus, a weeping Jesus learned obedience by what he suffered and became the author of eternal salvation of all who obey Him.
  - 1. His tears were not a substitute for His own obedience.
    - a) Even the tears of His own Son did not cause God to change His purpose.
    - b) His tears show that the pathway of obedience is not easy (Matthew 7:13-14).
  - 2. Tears are not a substitute for our obedience either (Matthew 7:21; cf. Acts 22:20; Revelation 2:13).

## III. ***Tears Of Regret -- Jesus Weeps Over The Destruction Of Jerusalem***

- A. As the city lies before Him, stretched out before His view, the Master's prophetic eye sees a sharp contrast.
  - 1. On the one hand a beautiful city, and on the other a smoldering ruin, with thousands of the city's inhabitants doomed to death (Luke 19:41-44).
  - 2. As far as the city's inhabitants were concerned, instead of penitence there had been hardening; instead of conversion, apostasy.
    - a) It was certainly not due to His lack of concern for them (Matthew 23:37). But they did not recognize the season when God, in His grace, visited them.
    - b) As always, when sinners harden themselves, God, in turn, will pour out His wrath on them.
      - (1) "Cast a trench" means to go over the wall surrounding Jerusalem.
      - (2) "Compass thee around and keep thee in" leaves no room for any to escape.
      - (3) "Lay thee even with the ground" warns of a horrible blood-bath.
      - (4) "Not one stone upon another" indicates the complete demolition of the city.

- B. If the Lord were here today, instead of rejoicing, would He be weeping about the condition of the people?
1. Many today are not interested in saving their souls (Jeremiah 8:20; Matthew 19:22; Luke 8:37).
  2. Surely the Lord would be grieved over the indifference He sees in the church.
    - a) There is indifference toward His authority (Ephesians 4:3).
    - b) There is indifference toward His worship (Matthew 15:8).
    - c) There is indifference toward immorality (Galatians 5:19-21).
    - d) There is indifference toward lost souls (Acts 8:4).
  3. The promised vengeance on the wicked is coming (Hebrews 10:30-31). We are in the period of long suffering now, but someday the time will expire (Romans 2:4-5).

**Conclusion.** We see sympathetic tears at the tomb of Lazarus. We see anguished tears in the garden of Gethsemane. We see sorrowful tears falling over Jerusalem. Surely the Lord is weeping regarding the condition of many today. Jesus shed tears. You need to let those tears soften your heart.