TEARS OF THE MASTER
(John 11:32-36)

I. Jesus shed tears at Lazarus’ tomb (John 11).
   A. On this occasion a good friend of Jesus had died.
      1. Jesus was close to this family and had stayed with them on other occasions.
      2. Jesus was sympathetic to the family because of this death.
   B. When Jesus was at the tomb, four days after Lazarus had died, Jesus shed tears that reveal some things about Himself.
   C. We learn of His human nature and feelings.
      1. The gospel of Mark presents Jesus as a man of action (Mark 10:45).
      2. Mark shows Jesus as full of feelings and emotions.
         a. He was angry (3:5).
         b. He slept (4:38).
         c. He became tired (6:31).
         d. He had compassion (6:34).
         e. He sighed (7:34; 8:12).
         f. He loved little children (10:16).
         g. He became hungry (11:12).
      3. All of these we feel today and Jesus shared those same feelings.
   D. We learn of His sympathy.
      1. Jesus wept tears of sympathy for his friends because of their loss.
         a. Jesus felt sorrow for this.
         b. It is also possible He sympathized with Lazarus because He was bringing him out of paradise and back to earth where he would later have to die again.
      2. Hebrews 4:15 - our Lord sympathizes with us.
   E. We learn of His love.
      1. Those at the grave said, “See how he loved him.”
      2. Frank E. Graeff wrote a song we sing occasionally, entitled “Does Jesus Care” and we know he does.
   F. We learn of His anger.
      1. These tears were also tears of anger.
      2. Jesus was angry at Satan and sin for bringing death into this world.

   A. Jesus comes into Jerusalem like a king.
      1. The people lined the streets for him.
      2. They were extremely excited about Jesus, probably because of a misunderstanding about His kingdom.
   B. Jesus took this opportunity to look over the city and weep because of what was going to take place there in AD 70.
C. We learn of the compassion of Jesus.
   1. It is interesting that the Greek word for weep here and the word for wept in John 11 are different.
      a. In John 11, Jesus simply shed tears.
      b. In this text, Jesus sobs and shudders.
      c. Jesus is moved with our pain, but suffers over those who are dying and will lose their souls.
   2. Jesus knew the misery and pain that was coming for Jerusalem.
   3. Hundreds of thousands would die brutally or be sold into slavery and it brought pain to our Lord’s heart.

D. We learn of His righteous indignation.
   1. Jesus was rebuking the Pharisees for their envy and rejection of Him.
   2. This was caused by their ignorance and apathy.
      a. Their attitudes were affecting those that viewed them as role models and causing those people to be lost as well.
      b. Jesus did not then, nor will He ever, accept or enjoy the ignorance of those in sin (Hosea 4:6).
      c. 2 Peter 3:9).

III. Jesus shed tears in Gethsemane (Hebrews 5:7).
A. Matthew and Luke tell us a good deal about that night.
   1. What a terrible night for our Lord.
   2. His body was wracked with anguish and pain that night for many reasons.

B. We learn of His loneliness.
   1. Jesus had spoken to great numbers of people who followed Him wherever He went.
   2. On this night, He was totally alone, bearing the weight of the world on His shoulders.

C. We learn of His agony.
   1. “Man is born unto trouble” Job said (5:7).
   2. The poet wrote, “Man is made to mourn.”
   3. Jesus was a man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4).
   4. Jesus spoke of that sorrow that very night (Matthew 26:38).

D. We learn of His betrayal.
   1. Jesus knew who the betrayer would be.
   2. Jesus cried for Judas who was leading Him to death.
   3. Jesus is moved for those who betray Him even today.

E. We learn of His obedience.

From a sermon by Wayne Greeson