

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.
 - 3. Hebrews 2:17-18.
- 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.
 - 3. John 15:13-15.
- 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.
 - 3. God takes no pleasure in the death of men (Ezekiel 18:31-32).

II. Jesus shed tears over Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-46).

- 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 Gethsemene (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).
 - 5. He prayed in agony (Luke 22:44).
- 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.
 - 1. Hebrews 5:7-9.
 - 2. Hebrews 12:3-4.

From a sermon by Wayne Greeson