

## A Crying Savior

The gospels give us a wonderful account of the life of Jesus. Many characteristics of His person are revealed such as His compassion, Mark 6:34; 8:2. His love and kindness is seen in His dealings with children, Matthew 18:2ff. His commitment to His fellow man is seen in the various healings He performed. There are things the Scriptures do not reveal; His height and weight, and His looks are not described, cf. Isaiah 53:2.

One characteristic about Jesus that is revealed is His emotions. His emotions were displayed when He saw the temple profaned by the money changers in John 2. On this occasion the disciples marveled at his zeal, John 2:17. However one of the most significant displays of the emotions of Jesus was seen when He shed tears. When Lazarus died, Mary, the sister of his friend was overcome by the death of her brother. The Bible says, "When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in His spirit and greatly troubled," John 11:33. Overcome by the depth of despair among His friends, Jesus too, **wept**. Stop and think! God cried!

Near the end of his ministry another occasion arose when Jesus was brought to tears. The Sunday before He died He made His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, John 12:14,15. Luke reported, "And when He drew near and saw the city, He **wept** over it, saying, 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.'" Luke 19:41,42.

On both occasions when Jesus wept it had to do with the plight of people. How deeply Jesus felt for humanity in everything He did. As early as His incarnation we see a self-less, heart-felt sense of giving from God who cares for the lost, note Luke 19:10. His effort to accomplish His mission came about not by determination alone. His heart was moved by the end of man without the benefit of such a sacrifice.

Put yourself in the place of Jesus as people are hurting because of the death of an individual they love. The hurt of humanity causes emotional attachment. I once heard how a Christian had died, and that when the news of it was shared with another Christian, they cried; a natural response. However, the news bearer seemed shocked. "Why are you crying, don't you realize she was a Christian?!" Tears flow, whether the person who has died is a Christian or not. Separation cuts to the core of any person, no matter how strong they are as a Christian.

But the separation of one from Christ is no matter to be underestimated. Imagine that you are going to die on Friday, and you know that the people of the town you were entering were going to kill you! Then further consider it from Jesus' perspective. He knew His death was essential, and that the very city that laid out palm leaves, and crying out, "Hosanna, in the highest" on Sunday was going to bring about His destruction before the end of the week. You, too, might be brought to tears.

The two incidents are tied together in that the presence of man in the world places him in most vulnerable circumstances. Did not Satan introduce death when blinding the eyes of Adam and Eve to their own wants and desires? History shows that the devil repeatedly blinded the eyes of the Jews to keep them from understanding that they needed to turn from their evil ways, and be healed, cf. Isaiah 6:10. Jesus wept because of stumbling blocks Satan places before man, tempting him to reject the message.

Tears in the eyes of Jesus! When it comes to you, on the day of judgment, may they only be tears of joy.

—Scott