

JESUS WEPT

It is incredible what can be brought to life by two words that describe the soft, quiet sadness of Christ. Jesus wept as He witnessed suffering of close friends and the suffering of another that had just passed away, a close friend whom He loved. As is typically the case, however, there is much more to be said about this somber moment.

While Jesus stands on the shore of the Jordan, a man whom He loved has passed away. At one point, in the not so distant past, He had also lost His cousin John to a beheading at the hands of King Herod and may have been at the Jordan to reflect on His beloved cousin, to reflect on their last moments together, which of course was Christ's baptism by John. This is pure speculation but plausible nonetheless. I do know that Jesus had lost a close personal friend and the Son of Man felt grief.

We also know that He was privy to the mourning of Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus. Jesus had a love for Martha and Mary, and them for Him as well, enough so that Mary anointed Christ with an expensive perfume worthy of a year's wages. So, to see them mourn the death of their brother had to be heavy on His heart. This is amplified by the fact that Jesus had told them his sickness would not end in death, they presumably did not grasp the gravity of the meaning behind His words.

This leading to the next point, that He could have prevented these things. He could have prevented the death of Lazarus with the touch of His hand or a word which would have nullified the angst of Martha and Mary. It would have been a simple enough gesture. He had already performed six miracles that we read about. This gives us the power of verse four when He says, "but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." He knew that He was going to have to raise His friend from the dead. He was going to raise him from the dead not for Lazarus' sake, not to be boisterous, but to show the glory of God.

Lastly, Jesus wept because this was the beginning of the end. Once the Pharisees caught wind of His glory they would plot His demise, with Caiaphas at the helm. Jesus knows these things, He had already told His disciples that a good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. Soon after as Mary anoints Him He tells them that it is for His burial and the hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. As fully God and fully man, He wept because the man in Him was not prepared to suffer and die but He knew the will of God supersedes anything that we may desire and He lived to do the will of God. Jesus wept because of the burden of sinful man that lay on His shoulders.

Jesus wept because of the loss of a friend. Jesus wept as He witnessed the mourning of two devoted young ladies. Jesus wept as He contemplated the imminence of His death. Jesus wept because this is not what the Father intended when he contemplated the creation of humanity. Jesus wept because our selfish sin had everything to do with the gravity of this bleak situation.