

Jesus Wept

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. There are three times in the Bible we are told that Jesus wept:
 - 1. First, in John 11:35 over the sorrow of others at Lazarus' death
 - 2. The third time Jesus wept was in the garden of Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion - Heb. 5:7
 - 3. But the occasion of His tears we will consider today is in Luke 19:41-44
- B. Envision the scene: Jesus triumphant entry; palm branches and clothes were laid in front of His path; multitudes of people crying out, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord."
 - 1. He comes to the top of the Mount of Olives and saw the city spread out before Him and says: Luke 19:41-44
- C. As Jesus neared the city, He saw Jerusalem. He saw their future.
 - 1. He knew that within forty years, the Romans would besiege the town.
 - 2. He knew that over 30,000 Jews would be crucified as the Legions marched toward the city.
 - 3. He knew that the city would hold out for 42 months while the people died by the thousands of disease and starvation.
 - 4. He knew they would throw the bodies of the dead over the walls of Jerusalem because there was no room left for graves in the city, and no one had the strength to dig them.
 - 5. He knew that the Roman General Titus would see the pile of dead bodies lying in outside the walls of Jerusalem and that he would lift his hands toward Heaven to call God as a witness that it was not his fault and that they did not have to die this way.
 - 6. Jesus knew that the Romans would conquer the city and that the Temple and the city would be utterly destroyed.
 - 7. He also knew the people would be scattered over all the earth.
 - 8. Jesus knew all these things and more, and he wept over the town.
 - 9. Get this image in your mind. The people are shouting, dancing and singing. They are praising God and the Lord Jesus. They are excited and vocal.
- D. Jesus is a man with a broken heart.
 - 1. He knows that Israel will not receive Him - John 1:11.
 - 2. He knows they will reject His message of salvation and crucify Him.
 - 3. That is why He is called "a man of sorrows" - Isa. 53:3.

I. JESUS WEPT BECAUSE HE KNEW WHY THEY WOULD PERISH

- A. Willful ignorance. Jesus knew that they would refuse to know - Luke 19:42
 - 1. They didn't know they were dead in trespasses and sins. They didn't know they were helpless.
 - 2. Have you ever looked at a lost person and fought back the tears?

II. HE WEPT OVER WHAT THE SINNERS HAD LOST

- A. Elusive peace. The city had been waiting for it since the days of Solomon
 - 1. Luke 19:42
 - 2. Assyrians, Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Hittites, Syrians, Seleucids, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans
 - 3. Jesus wept for what they might have had, and for what they would never know, not in this world, nor in the world to come.

III. HE WEPT FOR WHO WAS LOST

- A. They were His people, His nation, His kinfolk - Matt. 23:37
 - 1. What is a city but people, individuals with interesting lives, high hopes, worthy dreams, endearing qualities, men and women, boys and girls, aged folks and babies? - Luke 19:44
 - 2. God looks down upon the world, not as a mass of humanity, but as individual, precious children

IV. HE WEPT OVER THEIR LOST OPPORTUNITY

- A. Gen. 6:3; Rev. 2:21; 2Peter 3:9
- B. "The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone." (Harriet Beecher Stowe)
- C. Ecc. 12:1 - Estimated that only 8% of those who obey the gospel do so after the age of 20.
- D. Psalm 89:48 - I have preached the last sermon many people have heard.

V. HE WEPT OVER THEIR BLINDNESS

- A. They had refused to see, so God took away what could be seen - Rom. 1:28.
- B. The most religious people of His day, the Pharisees and scribes, did not know Him - Matt. 7:21-23

VI. HE WEPT BECAUSE OF THEIR DESTINY

- A. Rom. 2:3-9

VII. HE WEPT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS

- A. He knew that the crowd which now cried "Hail Him! Hail Him!" would in a few short days be crying "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" - Eph. 4:14

Conclusion:

- A. When was the last time you grieved over a soul bound in sin?
- B. Many have children and loved ones outside the church. When was the last time you actually sobbed and shed tears on their behalf?
- C. When was the last time you got down on your hands and knees and prayed for their salvation?
- D. If we can't answer these questions, we may have to answer for their lost state
- E. Someday it will be too late for tears
- F. Let's pray that the things that broke Jesus' heart will also break ours.