

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross

Day 7 Wednesday, March 1

“Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead”

Please Read John 11:38-44

38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

When Jesus saw her weeping

The grief and tears of Mary and Martha moved Jesus. God sees the tears of the grief stricken and is moved with compassion.

- God sees your tears
- God is touched by your tears · God remembers your tears
- God acts to dry your tears

Jesus wept

Jesus shared in the grief of those who mourn. Yet unlike any other, God the Son was able to do something about their grief. Jesus allowed this sympathetic passion to uniquely do for Lazarus what He will one day do for all the righteous dead.

“Jesus wept”

There are many aspects to these two words.

- Jesus was truly a man
- There may be no sin or shame in tears
- Jesus was acquainted with grief
- Jesus was not ashamed of His humanity
- Jesus identified with others in their sorrow
- Jesus loves people

Jesus dignified the tears of others in the Bible who wept, and all who weep.

- Abraham wept when he buried Sarah
- Jacob wept when he wrestled the Angel
- David and Jonathan wept together
- Hezekiah wept over his sickness
- Josiah wept over the sin of his nation
- Jeremiah was the weeping prophet

Your tears are a gift from God.

Lazarus, come forth!

Jesus spoke to a dead body as if Lazarus were alive because He is God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:17).

“The words spoken were brief, direct, and imperative and can be paraphrased, ‘Lazarus! This way out!’ as if Jesus were directing someone lost in a gloomy dungeon.”

“If this voice of Christ had been directed to all the dead, they would have all risen.”

Jesus fought death at Lazarus’ tomb, and robbed the grave. Jesus told death that He would soon conquer it completely.