

LWML *Texas* District

July 10, 2023

Meditation

Jesus Wept

A group of about 50 high school sophomores were asked to pick their favorite Bible verse in the New Testament and write an essay explaining why they chose it. One boy quickly blurted out, “I want John 11:35, ‘*Jesus wept*’!” The other students were confused as to why he would select such a short verse with an obvious meaning. At first his friends gave him a hard time saying, “Oh you only picked it because it’s the shortest verse in the Bible, and you wanted to do the least amount of work possible.”

Then the boy began to speak about what this verse meant to him. He explained the context of the verse. “One of Jesus’ best friends, Lazarus, had died. Jesus grieved. He was fully man and fully God. He knows our deepest feelings because He had them too.” Even though Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead, He still grieved.

This is one of those verses that points us to seeing Jesus as a vulnerable human like us. We know He was far more than just a man like us. He knows our weaknesses and troubles because He lived them. Many people have grown up in a culture where you don’t show your feelings unless they are happy ones. Jesus shows us He had feelings too. He expressed them when the timing was right, and used them to teach us it is good to grieve, it is good to have compassion, it is good to express ourselves to others.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knows us. He knows our emotions, our weaknesses, our temptations. The Holy Spirit can use all these things and can help lead us to a deeper trust in Jesus, knowing He truly understands.

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