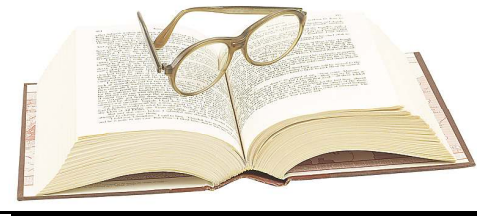


MESSAGES FROM WAYNE'S STUDY



JESUS WEPT John 11:35

#0012

My sons thought this was a perfect verse for memorization when they were young and at Good News Camp. I suppose most kids do.

What you may not know is that there are six Greek words that mean “to weep, mourn, lament, etc”. Collectively, these are found in the New Testament 55 times! The word used here is only used once - here!

The synonyms are as follows:

1.	δακρυω,	DAKRUO,	1 time	“to shed tears, to weep”	John 11:35
2.	κλαιω,	KLAIO	40 times	“to mourn, weep, lament”	Mark 14:72, etc..
3.	οδυρομαι,	ODUROMAI	2 times	“to mourn”	2 Corinthians 7:7, etc.
4.	θρηνεω,	THRENEO	4 times	“to lament, mourn”	John 16:20, etc.
5.	αλαλαζω	ALALAZO	2 times	“to wail, lament”	Mark 5:38, etc.
6.	στεναζω:	STENAZO	6 times	“to groan”	2 Corinthians 5:2 etc

Why is this word used in John 11:35? Because it is the only form of crying that makes little, if any, noise. He simply shed tears. Others were beating their breasts and wailing and doing all sorts of things but Jesus just let the tears roll down His cheeks. The people responsible for dividing our Bible up into chapters and verses must have thought “Jesus shed tears” was enough content to put in one verse!

Dr. McGee said of this, If you want to know how God feels about the death of your loved ones, look at this. He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. Death is a frightful thing. And you can be sure that He enters into sympathy with you. His sympathy was for the living. He knew what He was going to do for the dead. "Jesus wept." While John's Gospel is written to show us the deity of Christ, here Jesus is shown in all His humanness. He even asked where Lazarus was laid because He was so human. And here we can see the way God feels at a funeral today. He mingles His tears with ours. He groans within Himself. I get a little impatient with Christians who say one must not cry at a funeral, but one must be a brave Christian. Death is not pretty; it is a terrible thing. Jesus wept!

Charles Spurgeon preached, "Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!" IT WAS AT THE GRAVE OF LAZARUS that Jesus wept, and his grief was so manifest to the onlookers that they said, "Behold how he loved him!" Most of us here, I trust, are not mere onlookers, but we have a share in the special love of Jesus. We see evidences of that love, not in his tears, but in the precious blood that he so freely shed for us; so we ought to marvel even more than those Jews did at the love of Jesus, and to see further into his heart than they did, and to know more of him than they could in the brief interval in which they had become acquainted with him. When we think of his love to us, we may well cry, "Behold how he has loved us!"¹

There are many “theories” on why Jesus “shed tears” here. I will add one more, for what it is worth. Lazarus was dead, dead for 3 days. Where was he? I assume he was in “Abraham’s Bosom,” the closest one got to heaven in the Old Testament. Now he was going to have to give that all up and come back to earth with all its miseries again! Perhaps Jesus wept because he felt sorry for Lazarus. Do you know what he said when he returned? There is no case in the Bible of bringing someone back to life where we are told what they had to say! Paul wrote, “**And I knew such a man . . ., that was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.** 2 Corinthians 12:3-4 (KJV). I guess that is why we have never heard from any of these people.

¹C.H. Spurgeon, Sermon #3228 - Oh, How He Loves! Met. Tabernacle, 7/7/1872