

Episode #1-44 - When Jesus Wept

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In this passage, we are studying the seventh and climactic sign of the resurrection of Lazarus. The Lord has arrived just outside of Bethany four days after his death. Martha came to Him, and He led her to a great statement of faith in Who He is in verse 27. Now, we continue with His meeting with her sister Mary.

II. John 11:28-37. The Lord meets Mary.

- A. V.28. Goes her way. Sends word to Mary. Take her word that Christ called for her.
- B. V.29. Mary comes immediately. Not fair to blame her for something here.
- C. V.30. The Lord was waiting where Martha met him, did not come on to Bethany.
- D. V.31. The Jews were the important and influential rich class in Israel. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were Jews, so they came to his funeral. They assume she is going to the tomb, and follow. Why the secrecy? Remember, it was among the Jews that some were trying to put the Lord to death. Mary and Martha know this, and so keep quiet.
- E. V.32. Mary falls down before Him (devotion.) She says the same first statement as Martha, but not the second that hinted at a possible resurrection.
- F. V.33. Groaned=to snort like a horse, not indicating sorrow, but anger or indignation. He was not angry at the mourners, but at death. A dangerous thing to have this God angry at you! Death did not survive undefeated long after this!
- G. V.34. He does not challenge Mary like He did Martha. Instead He asks because He wants to see the tomb. They go there.
- H. V.35. Wept=shed tears. Not the traditional wailing. Unlike some today, the Lord felt no guilt about weeping at the tomb of a loved one, even though He knew resurrection was coming. To weep when a loved one dies is not to show lack of faith!
- I. V.36. They recognize that this is heartfelt sorrow. The Lord did love Lazarus. But He may also have been thinking of all the centuries of heartache that death has produced.
- J. V.37. Others doubt His love. Couldn't He have healed him if He had wished?

III. John 11:38-44. The Lord at the tomb.

- A. V.38. He arrives, still troubled. A cave with a stone rolled over the entrance was a grave of the wealthy at that time. The stone kept grave-robbers out.
- B. V.39. This was preparation for the miracle. Martha thinks He just wants to see him one last time, so she argues that by now he stinks! He would after four days.
- C. V.40. He reminds her of His earlier statements. II Cor. 4:6. She was about to see that the glory of God was in Him!
- D. V.41. He does not ask for hearing, but thanks Him for already hearing! Maybe He already asked privately sometime before this, or maybe He means the cry of His heart

IV. Conclusion: Martha might have believed that the Lord could raise Lazarus and that He is the resurrection, but she does not seem to have had the idea that He was about to raise Him right then! Yet she did believe. Do we believe that the Lord is the One Who can raise our dead loved ones? Do we really trust ourselves and those who love to His loving care after death? We should! Remember the point of John: that we would believe in Him. Let us believe!