

## Wept

*“Jesus wept”*

**John 11:35**

**Wept**—from the Greek word *dakru*. Yesterday we saw Jesus heartbroken over the desperation of those who refused God’s love. That word (*eklausen*) paints a picture of soul grief. Here is the other word translated “wept.” This time Jesus stands in front of the tomb of Lazarus. Lazarus is dead. All around Jesus, people are weeping and moaning. Death has ended life. Mary comes to Jesus and says, “If only you had been here, things would have been different.” No one can understand why Jesus delayed his visit instead of rushing to the side of his friend.

This word tells us why. Hidden in its Greek meaning is the clue. The word is not heart breaking, soul grief. It is the word for “shedding a tear.” It is crying over spilled milk. Something bad has happened but it is no big deal. Imagine the scene. Jesus had soul grief over the tragic lives of those lost to God’s grace (yesterday) but here he only sheds a tear in the face of death. Why? Because death is far less disastrous than rejection. Death is nothing at all compared to turning from God. And Jesus knew that soon God would raise him from death and the power of death over all humanity would be broken forever. He even told his disciples that he had the power to lay down his life and take it up again. But even Jesus could not make people repent.

God sheds a tear about death. It is a sad thing. But it is only a sad thing. It is not the end. God has conquered death. But God cannot conquer a man who refuses to turn to Him. The man who refuses to repent will truly die. He will be separated from God forever. And there is no logical reason why this should happen. God is willing to take death out of the picture if we are willing to change our direction. Death is nothing. Repentance is everything.

When my father died last year, the funeral was sad. We will miss him while we wait to see him in heaven. But it was a celebration that God has overcome death and my father is safely in God’s arms. He learned years and years ago that his weeping led to God’s joy. Now he is celebrating with Christ.

Shed a tear at death. It’s OK. Death is a sad thing. But weep over those who are still refusing God’s grace. God is weeping over them too.