



Daily Verse and Comment

[John 11:33-35](#)

(33) Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. (34) And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' (35) Jesus wept.

New King James Version

The Greek verb translated “wept” is found only here in the Bible. Its root means “tears.” His were not the tears of a sentimentalist, but those of a pure, righteous, sympathizing High Priest ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). The word twice translated “weeping” in verse 33 is not the same word, meaning “to lament loudly, to wail.” Unlike these others, [Jesus](#) did not wail but wept quietly with tears flowing.

It is often supposed that Jesus wept only because He had lost a friend to death and because of the deep [mourning](#) of Mary and Martha. However, even before Lazarus had died, He knew that He would resurrect Lazarus to glorify His Father and as a sign of His Messiahship ([John 11:4](#), 15). He was in complete control of the situation.

His weeping does show Him as a compassionate friend, and from this we learn that it is right and natural for us to sympathize with others in their afflictions. “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” ([Romans 12:15](#)). Sorrow at the death of friends is not improper, yet we should not belabor it but help others who grieve to find [peace](#) in the [God](#) of all consolation.

We see in this miracle an instance of the tenderness of the character of Jesus, the same Savior who wept over Jerusalem and felt deeply for others even in their sins. To the same tender and compassionate Savior we may now come, knowing that He will not cast us away. His example shows that heartfelt

mourning in the face of death does not indicate lack of [faith](#) but honest sorrow at the reality of suffering and death.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: The Resurrection of Lazarus \(Part Two\)](#)

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