

The Weeping Christ

By Joe Chesser

Every time I read the gospels, I am more impressed with both the humanity and deity of Jesus. Of course, that's why they were written, to help us get to know Jesus better and better, and thereby strengthening our faith and leading us to eternal life with Him (John 20:30-31). But the particular thing about Jesus that caught my attention this time is found in Luke 19:41-42:

"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.'"

There is another more familiar verse about Jesus weeping found in John 11. On that occasion, the cause of Jesus' tears was the death of a dear friend. He loved Lazarus and his sisters, and he shared tears of compassion with Mary and Martha at Lazarus' death. But he knew those tears would be short lived. He knew that in just a matter of moments the tears would turn to laughter and praise to God when He would call to His friend, "Lazarus, come out!"

However, in Luke 19 Jesus' tears were different. On this occasion his compassion and weeping for the city of Jerusalem were not going to end in laughter and praise. Unlike the situation with Lazarus, there was nothing Jesus could do to turn His weeping into joy. His deity wouldn't allow it. As a whole, the people of Jerusalem were spiritually hard-hearted. He would have loved to have gathered them together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but they refused (Luke 13:34). They were unwilling to accept His help, even with their greatest needs. Oh how He wanted to! He longed with all His heart to help. But all He could do was weep for them. Even though He could see the ugly destruction that lay ahead of them and even though He had the power to protect them from that suffering, in the end all He could do was weep.

Jesus didn't love Lazarus any more than He loved the people of Jerusalem. He wept for both. Jesus doesn't love any person more than any other person. God showed how much He loves the entire world by sending Jesus to the cross (John 3:16). For some, Jesus' love and compassion will result in eternal life. But for most, His love and compassion will result in death and destruction (Matthew 7:14). The difference is not Jesus. The difference is us. Lazarus loved Jesus, believed in Jesus, followed Jesus. Jesus' tears for him ended in blessings. On the other hand, Jerusalem did not believe in or love or follow Jesus. His tears for them are the most heart-breaking of all. They were tears about what could have been, yet in the end were tears without hope.

Jesus' compassion for people is evident in His tears. He loves us more than we can know. Jerusalem had the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus, but they were unwilling to do so. My prayer is that you will accept His offers of help by believing in Him, loving Him and obeying Him. You don't want His tears to be hopeless.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

November 14, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Hard Knots and Loose Ends.

Arthur is preaching today

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** November 17th, at the building (or join us on Zoom), 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** November 21st. **NEXT SUNDAY**
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, November 16th, here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 3, Day 2.
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Meal-** Saturday, November 20th, here at the building, 5pm. Served with love by our brethren from the Kittanning church! **THIS SATURDAY**



- **The National Door Knocking Campaign** yielded these statistics: 418 churches signed up, so far 120 churches (including us) have reported results, 1604 members of the church participated in knocking on doors, 21, 478 doors were knocked on, and there have been 10 baptisms so far! **Here at Valley Cities, two people have visited our worship service and one person requested a Bible correspondence course.**
- **The Thanksgiving meal is a chance for us to reach out to our Valley neighbors**, especially in Sayre, Athens and Waverly. Please plan to attend and **invite guests!**
- **Keep the MAGI box items and money coming in!** Thank you to all who have been so generous!

PRAYERS

- **Jackie** fell on Tuesday and broke her hip. She had surgery on Wednesday here in Sayre to put a pin in her hip. The surgery went very well, praise God! Jackie will be released maybe tomorrow and placed in rehab for a couple of weeks. She cannot receive visitors because of covid restrictions. Pray for her complete recovery.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Steve and Amy's neighbor's sister, JoAnne** (cancer).
- **Pray for our MAGI box project** which will be sent to children in Honduras, ages 5-7. Deadline: May 1st.
- **Arthur** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will have a bone scan tomorrow to rule out metastasis and then he and his doctor will decide how to proceed. Please pray that there is no cancer in the bones.
- **We pray thanks and praise for all we have** here in our country. And we pray for help with food, shelter, and clothing for the **people in poor countries** or in places where there are few places to go for help.



If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.