

Jesus weeping



[James Tissot](#), Jesus Wept

There are two passages where we see Jesus have the emotion of sadness or sorrow. Even though He has all power and all knowing of the future in these instances, He still showed this emotion to possibly mourn for those around Him in the first instance, and mourn for the outcome he knew would happen in the second.

John 11:35

The shortest verse in the KJV Bible. *Why did He weep if he knew He was going to resurrect Lazarus?*

- The Greek word used here for Jesus' weeping (εδακρούσεν, edakrusen) is different from the one used to describe the weeping of Mary and the Jews in v. 33 which indicated loud wailing and cries of lament. This word simply means "to shed tears" and has more the idea of quiet grief.
- Jesus waited 2 days to make the walk back to Bethany even though the distance was only 2 miles from Jerusalem.

- Some suggest that Jesus waited in order for the miracle to have greater meaning. If Jesus just healed Lazarus when he was dying, some would consider it a chance circumstance. God and Jesus wanted the witnesses to know that Jesus was the son of God without any doubts.
- The weeping here shows us that Jesus still had emotions even though he knew what He was going to do and had compassion for those mourning with Mary and Martha.
- Jesus also knew that He was going to pay for Lazarus' life soon with His own eventual death. No one knew the inner emotions Jesus had leading to His crucifixion
- Another reason for Jesus's tears was that he knew that raising Lazarus would cause the religious leaders to finally take action to put him to death ([John 11:45–53](#)). Some who witnessed the miracle went to tell the Pharisees.

[Luke 19:41-44](#) (Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem before being crucified)

- Here, Jesus weeps and feels sorrow for the city as He knew its eventual state 40 years later (siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD) and the lost souls who had the opportunity to believe Him but refused. A million citizens would die in that siege.
- He predicted the city would fall from an enemy, even going so far as to predict how the enemy would enter. (verse 43; *build an embankment against you*) were standard Roman military tactics.
- Earlier in Luke 13:34, Jesus laments that the city refused His teachings as He wanted to save them (as a "hen gathers her children") and the city instead killed God sent prophets (John the Baptist for example).
- The word for weeping here is the same used in the John passage above, showing how even though Jesus knew the end, He still felt compassion.

Jesus' weeping in both instances was different because the outcomes were different for those he wept over. Mary and Martha believed that they had eternal life through Him, while the citizens refused and would not have that same life.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, and the one who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Both passages show that Jesus had compassion for His children even when they were in the midst of either sorrow or unbelief. These examples show us that it isn't too late to come back to Him and believe in what He has already done.

References:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-wept.html>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-jesus-wept>

