



DOES JESUS CRY?

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Because your heart was responsive, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.

2 Kings 22:19

These words were spoken of Josiah, a king of Judah. He had come to the throne at an early age—young, yet with a heart tender toward the Lord. On this occasion, the reading of the long-neglected Mosaic Law, moved him greatly. He knew God's anger would be aroused.

The Lord told him, "I have heard you." Those words sound to me like he must have felt Josiah's grief along with him.

John 11:35, the shortest verse in the Bible—*Jesus wept*—is a clear indication that Jesus surely does weep with us in our sorrow. He had arrived at Mary and Martha's house as they, together with friends, were grief-stricken over the death of their brother and friend Lazarus. Seeing their great sorrow, Jesus wept with them.

Another story is told by a pastor about a child's tenderness towards God:

After a morning service, a young girl came to talk to him. She was broken, crying heavily, telling him she didn't think she was saved. When the pastor asked her why, she told him, "I'm not a Christian because I'm so mean to my sisters. If Jesus lived in me, I wouldn't be so bad. I need to ask Jesus to forgive me and save me." In the way only a humble child can be, she was sensitive to God's leading.

Jesus asks us to come to him like this little child, our hearts wide open. He will respond with compassion to those who are tender-hearted towards him. He feels their pain.

Have you ever wept inside, wishing for Christ's presence, though you fear you don't deserve it? You might then have sensed his compassion and feel him draw you close. Your sorrow lifted as you felt him tell you that you were his. Everything is forgiven, everything forgotten.

As the Bible says, God is close to you: "*[He] is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*" (Psalm 34:18)

Yes, Jesus does weep with us. And he will stay with us in our pain and sorrow.

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