

## **Thursday, March 19**

*Scripture Reading: John 11:35*

In the Gospel of John, chapter 11, verse 35, the Bible tells us “Jesus wept.” Although at first glance this passage is so short and simple, it tells us so much about Jesus. In two brief but powerful words we know that he was human even though he had many divine characteristics. Prior to this passage we may not see Jesus as truly human. When he cries, we know that he felt emotional pain. We know that he felt an attachment to people that was far beyond pity and an urge to help them.

Earlier in this chapter Jesus had been traveling with his disciples. He had received word from Mary and Martha that their brother Lazarus was sick and they begged Jesus to come, to heal him. Four days after Lazarus’ death Jesus arrives at Bethany. Mary and Martha greet Jesus but ask him why he did not come sooner, for Lazarus had died. As they bring him to the grave where Lazarus is kept, the Bible tells us that Jesus wept.

Jesus wept for the pain of his friends and perhaps because he knows that soon he will have to leave them. We think so often of Jesus’ dying on the cross. What a painful, brutal death that was for him. Perhaps his deeper pain was the pain of heartache. When your tears come, know that they touch Jesus’ heart before they well in your eye. Christ weeps for those he loves and he understands your tears.

*Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to live among us so that we may look to Him for strength in our times of trouble. Thank you Jesus for your unselfish sacrifice that you share to save us all. Amen*

Written by Mackenzie Steen, 9th grade