

“What makes Jesus cry?” [8. 26. 07]

Jesus trivia ☺

- # 1 After Jesus birth; where was His (2<sup>nd</sup> home) located? EGYPT
- # 2 At what age did Jesus begin teaching? (12 yrs. old)
- # 3 Which prophet was most influential in Jesus’ life? ISAIAH
- # 4 Which group of people did Jesus seem to enjoy the most? CHILDREN
- # 5 What was His favorite reading material? HEBREW scripture = O.T.
- # 6 At what age was Jesus baptized? (30 yrs. old)
- # 7 Just for fun - how many recorded baptisms did He perform? [ZERO]
- # 8 [Last question] what made Jesus cry?
  - So, how did you do?
  - REVIEW - - let’s check your answers; #'s 1 – 6 ☺

So, what made Jesus cry?

- Bible students among us easily recognize a moment when Jesus wept; actually it’s the shortest verse in the Bible; “Jesus wept.” [John 11: 35]
- This instance was recorded @ the death of His good friend Lazarus; Jesus saw the pain & anguish of Lazarus’ sisters Mary & Martha; text says, “Jesus wept.”
- Somehow it’s comforting to know; that Jesus cries @ death; He wept over the ultimate fruit that was bore as a result of the sin in the garden!
- However, this was not the only moment He was saddened to the point of tears; there’s another thing that makes Jesus cry ☹

And that’s what we are going to be about this morning & in the days in front!

If we know the answer to this question; it allows us to understand what can be & should be and could be if we all got together & collectively got about it!

Truth is: What made Jesus cry 2000 yrs. ago, still makes Him cry today ☹

PRAYER

[Father, give us insight to know how to dry the tears in Jesus' eyes!]

I. So, what makes Jesus cry?

A. (R) Matthew 9: 35 – 36 or p. 740 in pew Bible

B. v. 36 says, "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them;"

C. Compassion is literally one of the most visceral words in the N.T.

- The original language allows for several words to be used in order to unpack this passion – packed word such as compassion or cries
  - It literally means that "His guts were broken open or insides torn out."
  - A common phrase would refer to "broken heartedness." This is the original word for compassion.

A contemporary translation would say, "...that when He saw the crowds His guts were literally ripped opened". His heart was broken, He cried tears of sorrow ☹️ Did you catch what breaks Jesus' heart?

re (R) Matthew 9: 36b "...they were like sheep w/out a shepherd"

- Disconnected sheep [aimlessly wandering] without a shepherd ☹️
  - He wept then & Jesus weeps now and He will forever weep @ the thought of one of His precious ones living life disconnected w/out a shepherd.
  - Jesus' heart is broken because there are sheep in the church & community who live life with out a shepherd; He has a better plan for you and me.

(2) things I would like us to accomplish this morning:

- # 1 to describe to you what it means for a sheep to have a shepherd

- You might be one of the black sheep of the family; nonetheless – still a vital part of the flock ☺
- # 2 to introduce to you a beginning strategy that Jesus said was the solution to the problem!
- So, what does it mean for sheep to be shepherded?

Jesus taught point blank about this subject in the gospel of John 10: 1 – 5:  
He lays out (2) distinctives He wants for every sheep!

If these (2) distinctives are not true of each person @ WRCC = Jesus is crying!

II. (2) distinctives of a shepherded sheep

A. (R) John 10: 1 – 3 or p. 819 in pew Bible

B. 1<sup>st</sup> distinctive = Jesus wants every sheep to be known by name!

- v. 3 “...and the shepherd calls his own sheep by name.”
  - We learn that the shepherd had a very personal connection between the shepherd & the sheep (don't all sheep look alike?)
  - Apparently not – he can tell the difference between everyone of his sheep.
- [God's will] is very plain; He wants each one of us to be known by name!
  - [Don't misunderstand] it's not saying that we will dry the eyes of Jesus by being known on a membership register or church data base.
  - [Much deeper] it implies that someone has a personal relationship with you; someone is involved in your life, your name and nature matters to someone else!

[Jesus cries] if anyone considers this to be their home and they are not known;

When a person's ...

- dreams are not known
- hopes are not known

- gifts – talents – abilities - & strengths are not known & used

[Jesus weeps] in your sadness – disillusionment – aloneness & disappointments  
are not known!

[God's church] was never intended to be a lonely place!

Chuck Swindoll once wrote;  
“...loneliness is the most desolate word in the English language!”  
National surveys have shown that 1/5 of all households consists  
of just one person living by themselves.  
This is an increase of 385% over the last (3) decades!

Loneliness ranges from...

- an inmate in a prison cell
- military person 100s of miles away from home
- a divorced person in an unfurnished apt
- a stroke victim alone in a hospital room
- a missionary on a foreign field
- empty-nester's for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
- a college student away from home

Loneliness is...

- a phone that doesn't ring
- an empty mailbox
- a forgotten birthday
- a one night stand
- a fresh grave

It's [hard to imagine] that loneliness is still a problem in  
the context of our community of faith!

[And yet] I meet people on a more frequent basis that tell me that  
they came to church and were blessed by many aspects of their  
time;

And yet, NO ONE took time to even speak to them ☹  
(seems unfathomable)

Anytime someone goes unnoticed – unspoken too – uncared for;  
It literally makes Jesus cry!  
[I KNOW] we have the ability to do something today about this!

- 1<sup>st</sup> piece of God's strategy to dry the tears from Jesus' eyes is rather simple and uncomplicated.
  - Refuse for church JUST to be about you - - what you are going to receive or learn; the Christian life was never meant to be just about you!
  - It gets exciting when you are able to give to someone else what all of us desperately need ourselves; LOVE & ACCEPTANCE!
    - a kind smile - - a warm greeting
    - simply being gracious and welcoming to someone else
    - You are never more like Jesus than when you serve someone else!
    - [Barb Shade's] incredible legacy of encouragement

C. 2<sup>nd</sup> distinctive = Jesus wants every sheep simply to know

- (R) John 10: 4 – 5
- To know what?
  - To know the truth about God!
  - The original word KNOW literally means to have an intimate knowledge.
  - As a husband & wife would have intimate knowledge of one another!
- Reason WRCC is a simple Bible church - - as long as you study for yourself and know what the book says (safe guards you) from any stupidity!

III. So, how do we help to dry the tears from Jesus eyes?

A. (R) Matthew 9: 37 – 38

B. Biblical strategy is not complicated; it's not a program – it's YOU!

- [Simply saying] I will be part of the solution!
  - Countless people are ready to give their lives to Christ if someone would show them how.
  - If someone is ever going to experience the love of Jesus - - more than likely God is going to use you! You are the answer to prayers!
  
- Cement these stats firmly in your mind!
  - 75% of people who come to Christ do so by age 18.
    - 2% are won to Jesus thru advertising
    - 6% thru pastoral visitation
    - 6% thru organized outreach efforts
    - 86% thru friendship & loving care relationships
  
- 9 out of 10 believers never tell anyone they know about Jesus ☹️  
You know this must break His heart!

I challenge you in Jesus name; to use what you have to God's glory!

- REFUSE to allow anyone to sit by themselves all alone!
- REFUSE to be self absorbed @ home-neighborhoods-work-or school!
- REFUSE to allow someone you know to live this life w/out JESUS & spend eternity in Hell!

Let's be a church that attempts to...  
Dry the tears in Jesus' eyes!