

“MAN OF SORROWS”

John 11:28-44

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

“Go down, death.” Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Death is a toothless, clawless, helpless enemy destined to lose to the mighty and powerful Son of God. In fact, in this very incident, Jesus demonstrates powerfully that He is the Prince of Life before whom death must retreat!

However, on His way to manifest His mighty resurrection power at the grave of His friend Lazarus, Jesus manifests another side of His person: He is the “**Man of Sorrows.**” *It is important to recognize that Jesus was not merely the recipient of sorrow, He willingly and voluntarily took upon Himself our sorrows—experiencing them for Himself.*

The sorrows Jesus experienced in this incident were merely a foretaste of the sorrows that He would experience upon the cross during His substitutionary death in our place. Isaiah the prophet, in describing Jesus’ substitutionary atonement for our sins, said of Him:

He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

The old Negro spiritual says, “Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen, nobody knows like Jesus.” Yes, there has never been a trouble you’ve experienced, never a sorrow you’ve felt, never a burden you’ve carried that Jesus has not both experienced and understood! In this passage we see an example of this truth.

Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there—for He is the Man of Sorrows.

In this portion of Scripture our Lord has **five** different meetings: With God, with Mary, with Sorrow, with the Tomb, and with Death.

I. OUR LORD’S MEETING WITH GOD (41-42)

This prayer was heard before He

arrived at the tomb, and Jesus knew that the Father would raise the dead one before he went there. Prayer is more effective when we pray in harmony with the will and purpose of the Father.

The deed of power was still unaccomplished, but it was sure to happen.

Jesus always prayed in harmony with His Father’s will—therefore His prayers are

ALWAYS ANSWERED: “I know that you hear Me always.”

Jesus considers the needs of the crowd around Him (Do we?). He desires them **to believe.**

E. Jesus was sent by the Father and always acts in harmony with Him.

II. THE MEETING WITH MARY (28-32)

III. THE MEETING WITH SORROW (33-37)

A. The Loud Weeping and Mourning—Mary and the Jews (33)

B. The Deep Emotion of our Lord (33)

1. “Deeply moved in spirit”—this is His human spirit here.

2. “He troubled Himself”—He deliberately chose to enter into sympathy and sorrow with these sufferers

He gave in to such distress of spirit that made His body tremble!

3. **“JESUS WEPT”—THE SHORTEST VERSE IN THE BIBLE, YET ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND!**

C. The inquiry for the grave (34)—*The only place in this gospel where Jesus asks for information!*

D. The Responses of the Jews (36-37)

1. “Behold how he loved him”—assuming that His tears were over Lazarus.

2. Could He not have kept him from dying?

IV. THE MEETING WITH THE TOMB (38-40)

A. Again Deep Emotion—“Deeply moved within.”

B. The tomb—Evidence of the conquest of the enemy—death and Satan.

C. The Objection to the removal of the stone

D. The Reminder of the need of Faith (V. 40)

V. THE MEETING WITH DEATH (43-44)

A. The Loud Crying with a Loud Voice (doubly emphatic)

B. The Calling of Lazarus—Literally = “**Here, outside.**”

Truly, if our Lord had not restricted His call to Lazarus, all of the dead would have come forth!!

C. The One in the State of Death Comes Forth!

D. The Crowd stands there in **Awe, Amazement, and Shock**—**not daring to speak or move!**

E. Jesus commands that they care for him—releasing him and letting him go.

F. Jesus did not titillate their curiosity

CONCLUSION

“Man of Sorrows, what a name, for the Son of God who came

Ruined sinners to reclaim.

Hallelujah, what a Savior!

He faced the enemy square on and did not blink—and the enemy cowered down in defeat and humiliation!