

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

BRINGING JESUS INTO OUR PAIN AND LOSS

SCRIPTURE:

John 11:28-37

OBSERVATION

Jesus handles Martha's sister, Mary differently. The sisters initial statements to Jesus are identical (vv. 21 and 32). With Martha Jesus entered into a abstract theological discussion. With Mary Jesus entered into her pain. V. 33 says "he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled." The word translated "deeply moved" expresses indignant outrage and anger. Jesus is rightly indignant at the presence of death in a fallen world. This is not how things ought to be. Mary knew that. So do we. And so does Jesus.

So when Jesus asks, "Where have you laid him?" (v.34), it is not just out of curiosity or courtesy. Jesus doesn't ask about Lazarus' "final" resting spot so he can go and pay his last respects. No. Being deeply moved, he proceeds to do something about it. He moved.

And yet, Jesus wept. This is the shortest, but one of the most profound verses in all of Scripture. Jesus, despite knowing this situation would not end in death (v.4), weeps anyway.

Dear, beloved, precious follower of Jesus. Never believe the lie that our Savior doesn't care about your pain, your loss, or your grief. He is not an abstract and distant deity. He is closer than you think. He is our sympathetic priest. He is the God, who became one of us, grieved the loss of his friends, wept for and with them. You can be assured he weeps for and with us also. He approached the tomb and he approached us. He still approaches us and we can approach him.

APPLICATION

When Jesus asked, "Where have you laid him?", the crowd replied to him, "Lord, come and see." Would you be willing to invite Jesus, the God who weeps, to "come and see" your pain, your loss, your grief?

PRAYER

Jesus, here it is. This is what I am grieving. This is my loss. This is my pain. Like everyone gathered around Lazarus' tomb, I can't do anything about this one. This is out of my control. This is beyond my ability. Lord, come and see.