



# THE AGONY OF LOSS.

Jesus wept.

This verse is so short, it's easy to gloss over. But Jesus wept. He wept enough that the others around him took note. He wept enough that it was worth recording in the Bible. In fact, throughout this story, John also says that Jesus was, "deeply troubled" and "angry."

Death sucks. Whether you're a Christian or not, whether you know the end of the story or not, whether you're a human or God himself - death sucks.

Death was not a part of the world's original design. It's a result of absolute brokenness. And so Jesus grieved. He saw his friends grieving and he grieved alongside them. He knew Lazarus would rise again - he even knew death was going to be ultimately defeated!- but he still grieved over a broken world, over sickness, over loss, over the death of his friend. It is good to grieve.

And yet, like Jesus knew, we know we have hope. It says in Revelation 21: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

We can grieve deeply on this side of heaven, knowing Jesus has felt this weight with us, and hope is on the horizon.

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **John 11:1-6**

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. 2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." 5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.

## **John 11:23-26**

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

## **John 11:17-27**

33 When Jesus saw [Mary] weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Then Jesus wept. 36 The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" 37 But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

38 Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. 39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." 43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

# QUESTIONS.

*Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions*

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the above verses?
- 2.) What does this story tell/show you about Jesus?
- 3.) What does this story show you about grief?

## TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?