

JESUS WEPT

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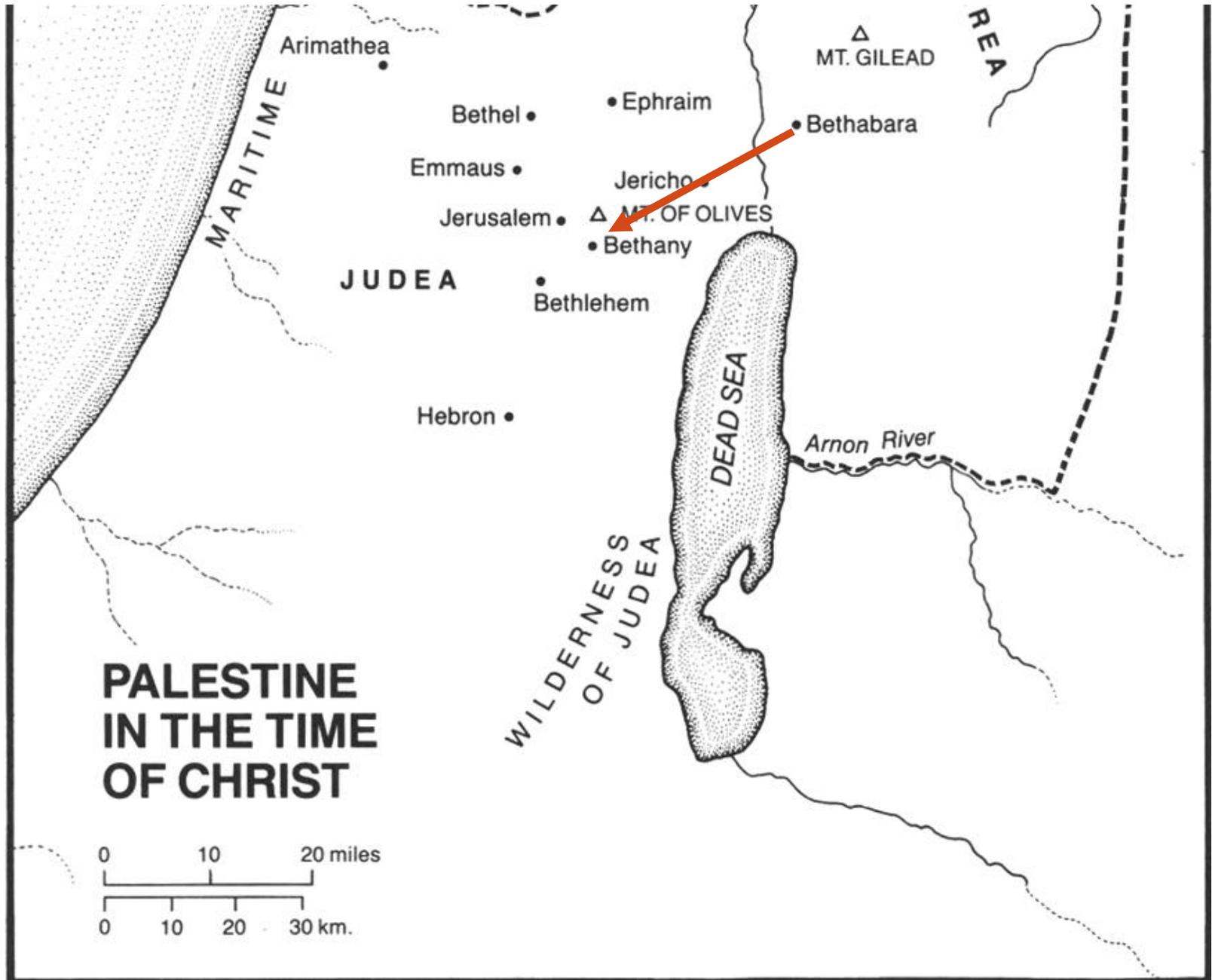
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TEARS IN THE BIBLE

- Joseph is said to have wept 8 times.
- David, 7 times.
- Paul, 4 times. He described himself as serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears. (Acts 20:19)
- Jeremiah compared his weeping to both a fountain and a river of tears. (Jeremiah 9:1; Lamentations 3:48)
- David's men wept until they had no more power to weep. (1 Samuel 30:4)
- The Psalmist wept until he drenched his couch and made his "bed swim." (Psalm 6:6)
- Peter wept "bitterly." (Matthew 26:75)
- Hell is described as a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:42)
- The last mention of tears is in Revelation 21:4, the promise that God shall wipe away all tears from the eyes of his redeemed.

JESUS WEPT

- There are three records of Jesus' tears: Over a doomed city, over a friend's death, and over a painful sacrifice.
- Luke 19:41–44; And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
- John 11:33–35; When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept.
- Hebrews 5:7; In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.



PART 1: LAZARUS IS DYING (JOHN 11:1-16)

- ¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

GOOD FRIENDS

- John 11:1-2; “Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.”

LAZARUS IS DYING

- John 11:3; “So the sisters sent to him, saying, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’”
- Either sickness and death has come to us already or it will at some future time.
- You can be loved by Jesus and still be afflicted by sickness and death

TELL IT TO JESUS

- John 11:3; So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”
- For us, it means praying to God.
- The message to Jesus is not what we expect.
- Sometimes we don’t know what to ask for...and that’s OK!
- Appeal to Jesus on the right basis.
- Our appeal to God must not be based on the depth or quality of our love for him – but rather the depth and quality of his love for us!

GOD'S ACTIONS

- God does not always act in the way we think he should act, or when.
- John 11:6-7; So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

WHEN DID LAZARUS DIE?

- Day 1—The messenger comes to Jesus (Lazarus dies).
- Day 2—The messenger returns to Bethany.
- Day 3—Jesus waits another day for a total delay of two days.
- Day 4—Jesus and disciples depart and arrive in Bethany.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- John 11:4; But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
- Jesus may be completely informed of our trouble and yet our prayers may not be answered as we wish.
- We must learn the lesson that God is able to direct even sickness and death to his glory.
- The only way we can find comfort in times of tragedy when our prayers are not answered the way we want is to trust in the Lord that he can use us in sickness and death as well as health and life to bring glory to him.
- We must learn the painful lesson that it is more important that God receive the glory than for us to get our own way.

PART 2: THE PAIN OF DEATH (JOHN 11:17–33)

■ ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” ²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.

JESUS COMFORTS MARTHA

- John 11:20–27
- ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

LIMITED FAITH

- People who have “limited faith” do not distrust the Lord, but neither do they believe with that full confidence that would allow them to lay aside their care and rest in his good care.
- They believe, but they are always troubling themselves with questions of “How?” and “Why?” and “What if?”
- Limited faith *attempts to limit God* or to scale down his promises.
- John 11:21; Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
 - She limits him by time.
 - She limits him by place.
- Limited faith treats the words of Christ Impersonally.

JESUS' RESPONSE TO LIMITED FAITH

- Jesus responds to Martha's limited faith by revealing more about himself so that she will have more faith.
- John 11:25-26; Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

“DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?” (V. 26)

- Jesus speaks of *faith* and not *feeling*.
- Jesus was specific.
- Martha answers Jesus' question in John 11:27; She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

JESUS CALLS MARY

- John 11:28–32; When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
- John 11:20; So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.
- At Mary’s greatest time of need she doesn’t go to Jesus.
- Jesus knows that she can’t stay where she is – she needs to come to him.

MARTHA'S EXAMPLE TO US

- John 11:28; When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”
- Martha has a responsibility to call Mary.
- Martha goes to where Mary is, but pulls her aside, to give her the message from Jesus.
- She delivers a specific message.
- Martha didn't shy away from her responsibility.

MARY'S EXAMPLE TO US

- John 11:29-32; And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
- She listened to Martha and believed Martha.
- She rose quickly and went to Jesus.
- Her actions caused others to follow her to Jesus.
- She fell at Jesus' feet.
- She confessed her faith.

PART 3: THE DEFEAT OF DEATH (JOHN 11:34-44)

■ ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

JOHN 11:35

- “Jesus wept”

JOHN 11:33

- “When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.”
- Greek: *enebrimesato* = “deeply moved”
 - Anger?
 - Grief?

WHY DID JESUS WEEP?

- Perhaps He was reminded that sin destroys and through sin suffering and death came into the world.
- Perhaps because of the unbelief that surrounded Him.
- Perhaps He knew He was going to pull Lazarus out of Paradise.
- Perhaps because those around Him were hurting.

THE TEARS OF HIS PEOPLE

- God notices our tears.
- John 11:33; “When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.”

OUR TEARS AND OUR PRAYERS

- “No prayer will ever prevail with God more surely than a liquid petition, which, being distilled from the heart, trickles from the eye, and waters the cheek. Then is God won when he hears the voice of your weeping.”
 - Charles Spurgeon

GOD AND OUR TEARS

- Tear bottles, called lachrymatories, were used among the ancients for collecting the tears of mourners. These bottles were then placed in the tombs of the deceased. They were made of glass, pottery, agate, sardonyx, etc.
- Psalm 56:8; “... put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?”
- It is God who collects David's tears, and he does so in a bottle so large that he will lose none of them.

TEARS WIPED AWAY

- Psalm 116:8; “For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.”
- Isaiah 25:8; “He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.”

REVELATION 7:14-17

- I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

REVELATION 21:2-4

- And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

WE ARE PRECIOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT.

- God tells us that we are valuable to him; not because of anything we do, but because we are his creation.
- He loves us because we were created in his image and he has great plans for restoring what sin destroyed in us.

THE DEFEAT OF DEATH (JOHN 11:38-44)

- ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

RAISING LAZARUS

- Lazarus' resurrection is the greatest miracle in John leading up to Jesus' resurrection.
- John's Purpose for the miracles:
 - John 20:30-32; "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

COMMAND 1: "TAKE AWAY THE STONE"

- John 11:38-42; ³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

SEEING THE GLORY OF GOD

- John 11:40; Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”
- By telling Martha that she will see the Glory of God, Jesus tells Martha to lift up her eyes from her circumstances, from the houseful of mourners, from her own plans and altered hopes and dreams, even from the apparent finality of her brother's death, and to put her eyes on Him and see the Glory of God.
- Leon Morris says, “For [Jesus] the ‘glory of God’ was the one important thing. This means that the real meaning of what He would do would be accessible only to faith. All who were there, believers or not, would see the miracle. But Jesus is promising Martha a sight of the glory. The crowd would see the miracle, but only believers would perceive its real significance, the glory.”

JESUS' PRAYER

- John 11:41b-42; “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”
- His prayer connected him, the great miracle, and the Father who sent Jesus to the crowd standing near by.

COMMAND 2: “LAZARUS, COME OUT”

- John 11:43; When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”
- At His command the king of terrors (Job 18:14) yielded up his lawful captive; the grave was robbed of its victory (1 Cor. 15:55).
- The door of death and Hades was unlocked by the One who alone holds the keys (Rev. 1:18).

COMMAND 3: “UNBIND HIM, AND LET HIM GO.”

- John 11:44; The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”
- Would you have run toward Lazarus or run away from him?

WHAT ARE TEARS FOR?

“Tears.

Those tiny drops of humanity. Those round, wet balls of fluid that tumble from our eyes, creep down our cheeks, and splash on the floor of our hearts....They are miniature messengers; on call twenty-four hours a day to substitute for crippled words. They drip, drop, and pour from the corner of our souls, carrying with them the deepest emotions we possess. They tumble down our faces with announcements that range from the most blissful joy to darkest despair.

The principle is simple; when words are most empty, tears are most apt.”

- Max Lucado from No Wonder They Call Him The Savior