

**“And Jesus Wept!”**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Once upon a time**, there was a fellow by the name of Al Dingwall, who wrote an article in his local newspaper. Al wrote about his son Michael, who was killed in Vietnam.

Al got the news on a Friday evening, at 5:15. He had returned home from work early and was standing over a messy workbench in his garage, trying to decide what job to tackle before being called to supper. Suddenly he heard his name. He looked up and saw his wife... **and** his parish priest standing in the doorway. His jaw dropped.

**“What’s wrong?”** he asked.

**“Mike’s been killed,”** his wife said.

Immediately, Al lost all contact with reality. His mind flashed back, across the years:

- First, he saw Mike as a 6-year-old, playing Mighty-Mite Baseball.
- Next, he saw Mike as captain of his high school football team.
- Finally, he saw Mike in his marvelous, Marine Uniform.  
He was so very proud of his beautiful boy!  
Later, he would say:

**“The news of Mike’s death left me so shocked and so stunned that I was unable to speak to my wife or hold her in my arms. All I could think of was Mike ...lying cold, lifeless, and still –on foreign soil, 1,000’s & 1,000’s of miles away from me.”**

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I share this touching story with you because it gives us some insight into how Jesus must have felt when he learned that his friend, Lazarus, had died. He, too, was shocked & stunned. Describing his reaction to the news the Bible says, **“And Jesus wept.”**

This is the shortest verse in the Bible. It just has three words: **“And Jesus wept.”** Yet it describes one of the most moving scenes in the New Testament. The reason it is so moving is that it gives us an insight into the humanity of Jesus ...into the vulnerability of Jesus.

We tend to forget that Jesus had a heart and loved, as we do.  
We tend to forget that Jesus had emotions and cried, as we do.  
We tend to forget that Jesus had a body and suffered, as we do.

It is extremely important that we remember these things.

‘Why is it so important that we remember that **Jesus loved**, as we do?’

Why is it so important that we remember that **Jesus cried**, as we do?

Why is it so important we remember that **Jesus suffered**, as we do?’ you ask?

**WELL... I am glad you asked those questions!**

It is important because it makes it possible for us to... relate to Jesus. He was like us in ALL things, **BUT** sin.

Because Jesus loved, because he cried, because he suffered –he understands how we feel when we love, when we cry, when we suffer. And just knowing that he understands us ...gives us the courage to carry on when life gets so hard or when inexplicable tragedies strike, like a bolt out of the blue.

Here's something else: today's Gospel shows us something even more important about Jesus. Besides showing Jesus **weeping** for Lazarus, it shows Jesus **RAISING** Lazarus to life!

In other words, besides showing us the **humanity** of Jesus, it (the gospel) shows us the **divinity** of Jesus.

It shows us the wondrous miracle of the **Hypostatic Union** –that Jesus was not only human, like us, but also that Jesus was the Son of God, totally UN-like us!

Because of his divinity, Jesus can do for us what no other person on earth can do. If we believe, as Martha did, he can give us the gift of... eternal **life**.

You see, today's readings are a **'capsule-summary'** of the biblical message of salvation:

The son of God became one of us:  
–that he might share with us, the pinnacle of creation, –the life of God!

I will now close by recalling Martha's response to Our Lord's question to her after he made this statement:

**"Whoever lives and believes in me ...will never die. Do you believe this?"**

Martha responded, **"Yes, Lord. I do believe!"**

And so, I pray:

**Yes, Lord, we do believe ...that you are true God and true man.**

**Yes, Lord, we do believe ...you became one with us that we might become one with you.**

**Yes, Lord, we do believe ...that, in the world to come, you will wipe away all tears...**

**–like those you shed for Lazarus.**

**Then there will be no more death, no more grief, no more tears...**

**except... for tears of joy.**

**Yes, Lord, we do believe!**

And may Almighty God, our Abba, bless you... the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.