

## TEARS - A LANGUAGE OF OUR SOUL

**Text: Genesis 43:30**

**Key Word:** Tears

**Key Thought:** God Understands Our Tears

What is a tear? If you were to ask a scientist, he might tell you, *"It is purely a chemical thing."*

If you asked a doctor, he would inform you,

*"A tear is the secretion of a duct in the eyes whose function is to cleanse and flush the delicate surface of the organ."*

- Ask a mother who clutches on to her lifeless baby.
- Ask a wife whose husband just left her home in a drunken rage.
- Ask the man of 54 years of age whose been laid off just two months before his entitlement for retirement takes place.
- Ask the teenager who has been mocked and ridiculed for opposing the flow of the crowd.
- Ask a child who just lost its favourite pet.

A tear can never be fully described no matter how eloquent the speaker may be. A tear is the ultimate expression of a very deep emotion. Tears are a language of our soul.

**I. TEARS OF A BROTHER (Genesis 43:30; 45:2)**

**II. TEARS OF A FRIEND (John 11:11,35)**

**III. TEARS OF A SAVIOUR (Hebrews 5:7)**

**I. TEARS OF A BROTHER (Genesis 43:30; 45:2)**

Joseph was the 11th of 12 sons born to Jacob who was later named Israel. He was favoured by his father. This favouritism angered his brothers and bitterness set into their hearts. The line of patriarchs have a history of internal struggles.

Abraham - Lot  
Isaac - Ishmael  
Rebekah - Leah  
Sarah - Hagar  
Jacob - Esau

## I. TEARS OF A BROTHER (Genesis 43:30; 45:2) (Contd.)

You would sometimes wonder why God ever chose Abraham and his descendants to bless the nations of the world. You would think that their strife and division and envy would cause God to move onto another family. Yet God worked with this embittered family to bring forth a blessing.

Joseph had every reason to destroy his brothers. After all,

- Joseph had dreams from God that his family continued to challenge.
- Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to the Midianite merchants.
- Joseph's brothers all lied to their father Jacob saying he had been devoured by a ferocious animal.
- Joseph's brothers continued to lie as they stood before him requesting grain because of the famine.

The chain of deceit, hurt, bitterness had spread through this family line. God chose Joseph to break it. He as a man of great wealth and power but it was not these things that broke the history of bondage. It was not that he could call an army to attack his homeland and destroy his brethren. It was not the power of tyranny that was used.

### What was the powerful weapon that Joseph used to break the bondage of the past?

*"Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there."*

*Genesis 43:30*

It was tears, not tyranny that broke the chains of the past. Joseph started by crying for someone he could love - Benjamin). Love is progressive and so are tears. Joseph was moved by God to have compassion for someone who was the easiest to love.

If you can't show compassion to your husband, wife, children, boss, fellow-worker, then find someone who can safely bring to life your deep heart feelings. Of course, be very careful whom you choose. Many affairs have begun this way. Remember that there is a goal in mind. Joseph was working toward the goal of forgiving his brothers.

The day finally came when his built-up compassion had to be expressed. He carefully prepared the setting,

## I. TEARS OF A BROTHER (Genesis 43:30; 45:2) (Contd.)

*"then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, 'Have everyone leave my presence!' So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.*

*2. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it."*

*Genesis 45:1,2*

The tears that Joseph had shed for his younger brother Benjamin grew to every member of his family. The tears flowed to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulum, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali and Benjamin. The tears became the language of his soul for **restitution based upon forgiveness.**

## II. TEARS OF A FRIEND (John 11:11, 35)

While Jesus walked on this earth there were certain families that He held close ties with. Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha were on one of those families. Jesus spoke of Lazarus in a very warm manner.

*"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep."*

*John 11:11*

The word friend (Gr. - philos) is the root word of philosophy. Philosophers are known for their ability to understand deep meanings. A friend is one who gets beyond surface acquaintances to understand the real you and me. Jesus was a friend (philos), therefore He knew Lazarus very well. A friend goes beyond knowing about you. A true friend makes the effort to know you inside and out.

Wedding bulletins often say, *"Today I will marry my friend."* It's saying that I really know this person and am willing to share my life, my intimacy with him/her. *"A friend is one who is there to care."*

### 1790 Durer's Praying Hands

**\*\*\*** From childhood Albrecht Durer wanted to paint. Finally, he left home to study with a great artist. He met a friend who also had this same desire and the two became roommates. Both being poor, they found it difficult to make a living and study at the same time. Albrecht's friend offered to work while Albrecht studied. Then when the paintings began to sell, he would have his chance.

## II. TEARS OF A FRIEND (John 11:11,35)(Contd.)

\*\*\* After much persuasion, Albrecht agreed and worked faithfully while his friend toiled long hours to make a living.

The day came when Albrecht sold a wood-carving and his friend went back to his paints, only to find that the hard work had stiffened and twisted his fingers and he could no longer paint with skill.

When Albrecht learned what happened to his friend, he was filled with great sorrow. One day returning home unexpectedly he heard the voice of his friend and saw the gnarled, toilworn hands folded in prayer before him.

*"I can show the world my appreciation by painting his hands as I see them now, folded in prayer."* It was this thought that inspired Albrecht Durer when he realized that he could never give back to his friend the skill which had left his hands.

Durer's gratitude was captured in his inspired painting that has become world famous. And, we are blessed by both the beauty of the painting and the beautiful story of gratitude and brother-hood.

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[The Bible Friend](#)

Jesus not only prayed for His friend, He also cried for him.

*"Jesus wept."*

*John 11:35*

The tears of Jesus were not because he doubted that Lazarus would live. It was a quiet weeping not a loud wailing. It was the tears of a friend. In their time of separation, Lazarus had become ill, died, was bound in grave clothing, set in a tomb for several days. The heat of the region had already quickened the decay process.

Have you ever returned to find reports of a dear friend to be true? That your friend had died, perhaps spiritually? Spiritual decay had set in. Your friend stunk to everyone around and was bound. It would be a time when a friend is needed. A friend who can sincerely cry over the pitiful state. A friend who has enough compassion to break the bondages of death. A friend who loves at all times.

"A friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

There is power in the tears of a friend. The tears of Jesus became the language of His soul that led Him to bring resurrection life to His friend.

### III. TEARS OF A SAVIOUR (Hebrews 5:7)

Jesus was willing to become our brother (joint-heir) and our friend.

*"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you."*

*John 15:15*

Jesus' friendship was shown in the ultimate sacrifice.

*"Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

*John 15:13*

God's love for us was clearly seen the week prior to and including His death. The writer of Hebrews gives us an inside look at the moments Jesus spent in the garden.

*"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission."*

*Hebrews 5:7*

His tears spoke of the agony of His soul. His city, His nation and His disciples would soon forsake Him. Just days before Gethsemane His heart again went out to the people.

*"As he approached Jerusalem, and saw the city, he wept over it."*

*Luke 19:41*

These were very difficult days for our Lord. As He later made His way into the garden, tears burst forth through an agonizing soul.

Some try to teach us that it is not right to cry when preaching or praying. They tell us it shows a lack of trust in God. We're told, "Big boys don't cry!". I wonder how many in our country wish they could cry.

### III. TEARS OF A SAVIOUR (Hebrews 5:7) (Contd.)

#### 6431 John R. Rice's Experience

\*\*\* When I first began preaching, I remember how I wept from the beginning to the end of my sermons. I was embarrassed of it. This was wholly unlike the college debating, the commencement addresses and other public speaking which I had been accustomed to doing. The tears flowed down my cheeks almost continually, and I was so broken up that sometimes I could scarcely talk. Then I grew ashamed of my tears and longed to speak more logically. As I recall, I asked the Lord to give me better control of myself as I preached.

My tears soon vanished and I found I had only the dry husk of preaching left. Then I begged God give me again the broken heart, the concern, even if it meant tears in public and a trembling voice. I feel the same need today. We preachers ought to cry out like Jeremiah,

We again need tears to flow from our altars for the souls of our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, children, in-laws, fellow-workers, government leaders, educators, law enforcement officials and churches. \*\*\*

Jeremiah had the same heart as Jesus had for His people,

*"Oh, that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people."*

*Jeremiah 9:1*

The Psalmist sang,

*"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."*

*Psalm 126:5,6*

The tears of Jesus became the language of His soul for redemption. He cried to buy back His people. We need to cry out to God like our forefathers spoke of between the porch and the altar. Cry out for the souls of those lost from God! Cry out for your own soul that it be kept pure before God! Cry out and let your soul speak forth! Cry out:

**TEARS FOR RESTITUTION**  
**TEARS FOR RESURRECTION**  
**TEARS FOR REDEMPTION**

C:\My Documents\WPWin(21)\Sermons.2024\Prayer\Genesis 43\_30.wpd

Date: July 28/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: "Cry in my Heart" - G or C

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The chain of deceit, hurt, bitterness had spread through this family line. God chose Joseph to break it

**What was the powerful weapon that Joseph used to break the bondage of the past?**

*Genesis 43:30.* It was tears, not tyranny that broke the chains of the past.

*Genesis 45:1,2.* The tears became the language of his soul for restitution based upon forgiveness.

### II. TEARS OF A FRIEND (John 11:11,35)

*John 11:11*

**Durer's Praying Hands**

*John 11:35*

### III. TEARS OF A SAVIOUR (Hebrews 5:7)

*John 15:15; John 15:13; Hebrews 5:7; Luke 19:41*

**6431 John R. Rice's Experience**

*Jeremiah 9:1; Psalm 126:5,6*

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