

Jesus Wept... But Why?

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
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Deacons:

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Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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According to the original Greek language of New Testament, the shortest verse in that respective testament is I Thessalonians 5:16. This verse reads, “Rejoice always”. In Greek, I Thessalonians 5:16 contains just 14 letters, while the English contains 13 letters. According to the English translation of the New Testament, the shortest verse in that respective testament is John 11:35. This verse reads, “Jesus wept”. In Greek, John 11:35 contains 16 letters, while the English contains only 9 letters. You are probably familiar with the words of this shortest verse in English, but are you familiar with the reason why Jesus wept?

In the context of John 11, the brother of Mary and Martha – named Lazarus – became sick (vv. 1-2). The sisters came to Jesus, informing Him of Lazarus’ condition (v. 3). The Lord told them that the illness their brother had would not lead to death (v. 4). In what seems to be in opposition to Jesus’ words, Lazarus does end up dying (vv. 11-16). After four days of the body being in a tomb, Jesus came back to see Mary and Martha (v. 17). At separate times, both Martha and Mary told Jesus that their brother would not have died if He had been there (vv. 21, 32). Not long after this moment, Jesus wept (v. 35) and went to the tomb to raise Lazarus from the dead (vv. 38-44). This incredible act caused some people to believe that Jesus is the Christ (v. 45).

We may assume that Jesus wept because Lazarus died, but I think that assumption is unfounded in the text. Rather than Jesus weeping on account of Lazarus dying, I believe Jesus wept for other reasons. One, we do not see Jesus weep at all right after finding out that Lazarus had died (John 11:11-16). Two, the text explicitly tells us that Jesus wept because those whom He cared for were sad (John 11:33). Three, Jesus could have also wept because Lazarus had to return from sinless paradise back to sinful earth. Let’s delve into this third possibility.

Notice John 11:38. The verse reads, “Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.” Jesus comes up to the tomb, knowing that He is about to raise Lazarus back to life, and became deeply moved again. The last time

we read the phrase “deeply moved” was in verse 33 where Jesus sees Mary weep. Right after this event, Jesus Himself weeps (John 11:35). Because Jesus becomes saddened right before this great miracle, could it be the case that Jesus was deeply moved because He knew He would have to bring His friend back to a place much worse than the place that Lazarus was in for four days? In Jesus knowing the greatness of paradise Himself, this reason for weeping makes sense. Jesus left that perfect paradise to come to imperfect earth for our sake (Philippians 2:5-11). Knowing that difficulty, He also had Lazarus do the same and felt sorrow for him (John 11:1-44).

Can you imagine being Lazarus? You die, go to paradise and enjoy the perfection of it, and then after four days you show back up on this earth in your smelly skin and linen. That would be really tough, wouldn’t it? Lazarus might have been thinking, “Oh man! Not this place again!” Even though the miracle was used to provoke belief that Jesus is the Christ (John 11:45), we see that such a miracle was performed at the slight detriment of a man whom Jesus cared for and loved.

Jesus weeping here not only teaches us that we need to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15); He also teaches us just how much better paradise is than earth. The paradise in hades is one of great comfort (Luke 16:25). The paradise of eternal heaven is filled with worship and praise towards God (Revelation 5). The paradise of heaven contains absolutely no death, weeping, pain, or suffering (Revelations 21:1-4). The afterlife for saints is surely better than the current one.

Whenever we have a loved one die in Christ, we certainly have the right to weep because of how much we will miss them, but don’t ever forget how great it is that they never have to come back here like Lazarus did. Rejoice in their current abode as the Lord does (Psalm 116:15), because they have it so much better now!

Luke Yates



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, Neosho Christian School and Honduras mission work.

- Wayne Douthitt had successful knee surgery on Monday.

We are saddened by the passing of Richard Tink last week. Services were held on Saturday.



every ONE counts!

Remember to give an extra dollar every Sunday to help someone in need. Every "One" Counts! This week we are helping a couple at a local congregation who could use the money. Thank you to all who have contributed to this great ministry!



Vacation Bible school begins in less than two weeks!

- Get a shirt at the welcome desk, and wear it to help advertise. Donate \$5 to help with the cost if possible.
- Take coloring sheets from the welcome desk, and return them to register kids.
- We still have a few jobs to fill. Contact Luke to see how you can help.
- If you have any sports posters, memorabilia, equipment, balls, or trophies from any sports whatsoever that you wouldn't mind lending for VBS decorations, please give them to Luke Yates in the next week.
- If you would like to help cook and/or serve for a dinner on the last night of VBS (July 26th), please let Luke know.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Keep Praying!*
(Luke 11:1-13, Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Prophetic Proofs From Psalm 22*
(Luke Yates)

Our next fifth Sunday giving opportunity will be July 30. Please make prayerful, generous plans to help pay for our soon-to-open new fellowship building.



Everyone is invited for a **day of fun at the creek on Saturday, July 22** from 10:00-4:00 at the Cook's campground. Bring lawn chairs and your own flotation device. There will be a weiner roast at noon and hot dogs will be provided. Please see M'lle if you plan to attend and if you can help by bringing side dishes and drinks.

Watch for news in next week's bulletin about a new ministry to strengthen marriages!

Join us this Sunday at 1:30 for a devotional and singing at Medical-edge.



Our **Summer Youth Series** will meet this Thursday at 6:30 at the home of Bryan and Heather Reiboldt. We're studying important Bible word, and tjo

Men's BBQ Night: Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6 p.m. next Tuesday, July 18 for a trip to Big R's in Joplin.

My heart is filled with gratitude for the cards, visits, food and most of all prayers while I was "down and out." Every act of kindness was much appreciated. I really missed seeing all of you when I couldn't be in worship service. I am thankful to be a part of God's family at Hillcrest.

In Christ,
Carolyn Bukowich

Thank you for all the cards, food, prayers, and encouragement following my surgery. This is a great congregation!

Mary Jane Flint

Thank you to Grace, Annie, Lorelai for helping Cindy, Jennifer, Kayla and Amanda prepare lunch. The taco salad and dump cake were delicious. Also, thank you to the servers: Liam, Jonah, Annie, Kailyn, Colby, Hannah, Grace, Jonathan, Lorelai, and Joshua. You were great! Then on Thursday you returned with your youth group feeding us another great lunch and helping us clean tables and chairs. You are an awesome youth group!

And ladies, Thank you for the meals you prepared for us. The food was delicious and enjoyed. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

The Sojourners, 2017
James and Sarah Goggans
Steve and Regina Curtis
Joy and Carol Rounsaville
DeWayne Brown
Larry and Billie Jean Williams
Nick and Eva Eubanks

Dear Hillcrest kids, Thank you so much for the card you sent me. It made my day and I appreciated your thoughtfulness so much! God bless all of you!

Christian Love to all,
Glenda Daniels

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, July 16

- AM Opening: Todd Murray
- AM Closing: Benny Haught
- PM Opening: Aaron Wilson
- PM Closing: Bryan Reiboldt

Scripture Reading Sunday, July 16

- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, Charles Phillips

Prayers Wednesday, July 19

- Opening: Jr Collinsworth
- Closing: Jared Thomas

RECORDS

07-09-17

07-03-16

Bible Study	122	113
AM Worship	193	147
PM Worship	136	94
Wednesday	104	148
Contribution	\$9,190.75	\$7,874.01
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67