

John 11:21-44
Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ...

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, ...

“The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 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. ...

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.” 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. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ...

Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 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." ...

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "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."
...

When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 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 11:21-44

Dealing with sorrows and loss

What sorrows and loss are you experiencing today?

"Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"I sat with my anger long enough until she told me her real name was grief."

- CS Lewis

Sorrow and Loss: How Jesus responds to it

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1. "I am sad."
2. "I am mad."
3. "I am the resurrection and the life."

Sorrow and Loss: How Jesus responds to it

1. "I am sad."

Verse 35: "Jesus wept."

JESUS wept.

Colossians 1:15-17:

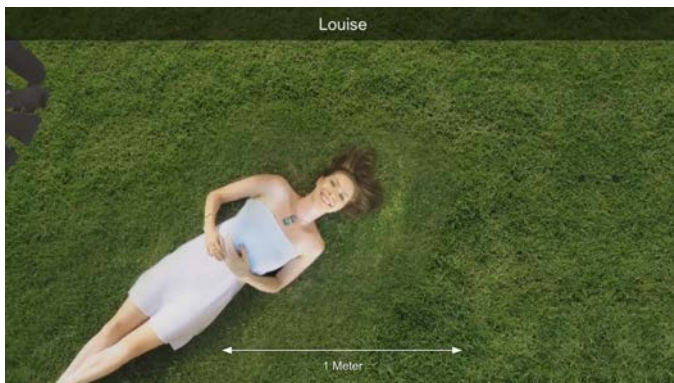
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

JESUS wept.

Jesus **WEPT.**

“There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief...and of **unspeakable love.**”

- Washington Irving



“Jesus wept.”

“Those who do not weep, do not see.”
- Victor Hugo, Les Miserables

Matthew 5:4: Blessed are those who **mourn**,
for they shall be **comforted**.

“Grief is not a disorder, a disease or a sign of
weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and
spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love.
The only cure for grief is to grieve.”

- Earl Grollman

Sorrow and Loss: How Jesus responds to it

1. “I am sad.”
2. “I am mad.”



“Deeply moved”: a deep groan/outrage, a
connotation of an animal snorting

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Verse 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.

Verse 38: “Then Jesus, **deeply moved again**, came
to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against
it.”

John Calvin: “Christ does not come to the tomb as an idle spectator, but comes like a wrestler preparing for a contest. Therefore, no wonder he groans, for the violent tyranny of death that he had to overcome stands before his eyes.”



Verse 39a:

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Verse 39b:

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.”

Verse 40a:

Jesus said to her, “**Did I not tell you** that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

PK’s translation:

“Did you not hear me? Enough is enough. **MOVE THAT STONE NOW!**”

Verses 43:

When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Verses 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.”

Takeaway:

If Jesus’ weeping over sorrow and loss consoles us, Jesus’ anger towards sorrow and loss strengthens us. There is a power that is stronger than death.

Sorrow and Loss: How Jesus responds to it

1. “I am sad.”
2. “I am mad.”
3. “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Verses 25-27: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”



Told you not to
Poke the Bear

Colossians 2:15: (On the cross) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.



Lesson: Don't Poke the Bear



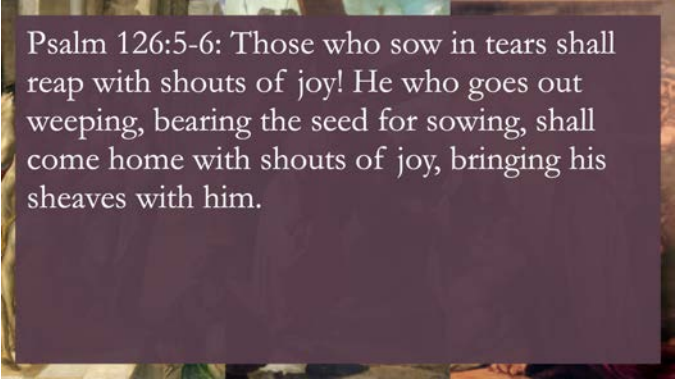
Sorrow and Loss: How Jesus responds to it

1. "I am sad": Find **comfort** in your sorrow
2. "I am mad": Find **strength** in your sorrow
3. "I am the resurrection and the life": Find **hope** in your sorrow


1 Thessalonians 4:13: But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

JRR Tolkien, The Return of the King:

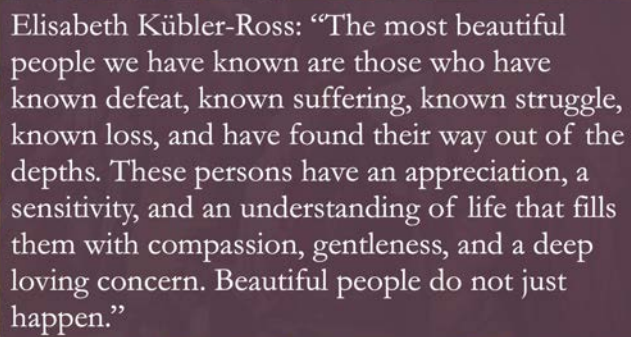
"Well, here at last, dear friends, on the shores of the Sea comes the end of our fellowship in Middle-earth. Go in peace! I will not say: do not weep; for not all tears are an evil."



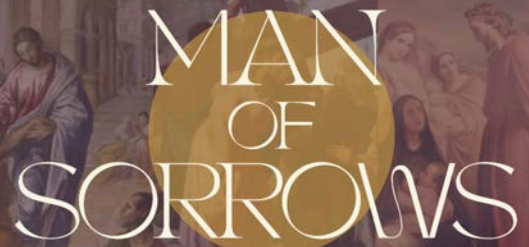
Psalm 126:5-6: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.



For reflection as we close...



Elisabeth Kübler-Ross: “The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”



MAN
OF
SORROWS