



John 11: 1 - 45

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“Jesus Wept”

Jesus wept.

Jesus wept is the shortest sentence in scripture.

And, it is one of the most important because through those two words “Jesus wept”, we are brought to this reality: God weeps.

Jesus, the heart of God made touchable, lived and taught and loved in the midst of human people and Jesus teaches us that we too can have the courage to live and love and weep and laugh in the midst of human people.

God is not untouched by the world.

Jesus wept.

The bombing that took place at the Boston Marathon in 2013 shattered the hearts and bodies of many.

In the midst of a sunny day when the world was full of celebration for the courage of hundreds of runners, mayhem erupted.

The Boston Marathon of 2014 was a somber and poignant event. There was not a person there who did not remember what had happened in that place the year before. They gathered - runners and survivors and cheering supporters, holding sacred the memory of those who had died the year before.

The Washington Post shared the experience of one of the runners - Larry Chloupek. He did the mobility-impaired portion of the marathon course with crutches under his arms. He had lost his left leg to bone cancer at age seven. Because the amputation is near his hip, prosthetics are challenging, so he usually gets around with forearm crutches.

Knowing that sixteen people lost limbs through the bombing and that three people died, he trained and qualified because, in his words,

“I wanted to give them some strength. They’re new amputees. I wanted to prove a point to them - that despite what happened last year, they can overcome it.”

It took him five hours and twenty minutes to run the course. His whole body ached and his hands and arms were numb from his exertion.

But here what the Washington Post says about what almost stopped him:

“At a certain point Monday, it was no longer the aching in his forearms that made each step a chore, nor the growing fatigue in his right leg. What was making the 118th Boston Marathon difficult for Larry Chloupek were the tears in his eyes. Every impromptu standing ovation from the spectators along the route and every word of encouragement from every awestruck able-bodied runner who passed him would start the waterworks again.

'I was blown away,' said Chloupek, 53, from Potomac. 'The crowd support, from mile one until the end, the clapping that went on - it was absolutely incredible.'" (Dave Sheinin, Washington Post April 21).

Pain, gratitude, wonder, grief, loss, transitions into retirement or college or care facilities.

We feel them. We are called to feel them. Waterworks are holy, holy, holy.

Did you hear how it was Jesus loved his friend and felt the frustration of loving his friend and how it was he knew that raising Lazarus from the dead was going to inflame the Jewish authorities - because who gives life? God gives life. For Jesus to bring Lazarus back to life surely would make him a wanted man and yet

and yet and yet, Jesus wept and loved and healed and participated in God's love for the world because he could do no other.

For God so loved the world that God sent into our midst a son who loved and wept and healed in order that we might do likewise. In order that we might weep with each other and cheer for each other and see each other and love each other and yes, loving means that we will weep.

It hurts to love. Waterworks happen.

Thanks be to the God who gives us the courage to love in the way of Jesus.

Amen