

John 11:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

Analysis

The Jews correctly interpret Jesus' tears as evidence of His love for Lazarus. Their observation affirms Christ's genuine humanity and emotional depth. These witnesses testify to authentic love, not pretense. However, they see only surface truth—Jesus weeps not merely for Lazarus but for all death's devastation. His tears demonstrate the Incarnate Word's complete identification with human sorrow. The shortest verse in Scripture (v. 35) carries enormous theological weight about Christ's compassionate high priesthood (Heb 4:15).

Historical Context

Public weeping was culturally acceptable for both men and women in ancient Judaism. Jesus' tears would not have seemed weak but demonstrated proper human emotion and relationship depth.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do Jesus' tears demonstrate His qualification as our sympathetic High Priest?

2. What does Christ's weeping teach about the relationship between faith and emotion?
3. In what ways should Jesus' tears shape Christian responses to death and grief?

Interlinear Text

ἔλεγον οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι Ἰδε πῶς ἐφίλει αὐτόν
said Then the Jews how he loved him
G3004 G3767 G2453 G1492 G4459 G5368 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 11:3 (Love): Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

Revelation 1:5 (Love): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

1 John 3:1 (Love): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Ephesians 5:25 (Love): Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;