



**Tears That Bring
Freedom**



⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'



²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'



As he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, Jesus was not smiling. He was angry. He was weeping. Why? Because death is a bad thing! Jesus wasn't thinking, "They think that this is a tragedy, but no harm done! I'm about to raise him from the dead. This looks like a bad thing, but it's not. It's really a good thing! It's a way for me to show my glory. It's really exciting! I can't wait!" He wasn't thinking that. Jesus was weeping at the tomb, because the bad thing he's about to work for good is bad.



The story of Lazarus does not give you a saccharine view of suffering, saying bad things are really blessings in disguise or that every cloud has a silver lining. The Bible never says anything like that! God will give bad things good effects in your life, but they're still bad. Jesus Christ's anger at the tomb of Lazarus proves that he hates death.

He also hates loneliness, alienation, pain, and suffering. Jesus hates it all so much that he was willing to come into this world and experience it all himself, so that eventually he could destroy it without destroying us.



David's Response to Grief and Loss:

1. Paying attention

“Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen ... Saul and Jonathan, in life they were loved and gracious” (vv. 19, 26 NIV).

“How the mighty have fallen!”

“I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother.”

David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow



David's Response to Grief and Loss:

1. Paying attention
2. Waiting in the confusing in-between
3. Allowing the old to birth the new

1. Orientation - where we enjoy God and his creation and blessings, delight in his goodness, and enjoy a rich sense of well-being and joy in him.
2. Disorientation - seasons of hurt, suffering, and dislocation, written when the bottom falls out and we wonder what is happening. This is the confusing in-between, when we so often feel doubts, resentment, isolation, and despair.
3. Reorientation - when God breaks in and does something new. This is when joy breaks through our despair.



“There is no compassion without many tears ... To become like the Father whose only authority is compassion, I have to shed countless tears and so prepare my heart to receive anyone, whatever their journey has been, and forgive them from the heart.”

Henri Nowen



Hebrews 5:7 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. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him