GREAT LOVE XII

Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! John 11:36 (KJV)

The verse previous to our text is the shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus wept.” There was much reason for weeping because Lazarus had died. His sisters were heartbroken as well as others who were there. Jesus wept also. Many reasons may be given of why he wept such as; Lazarus would now have to come back to this world after having tasted of the next; or Jesus may have wept because the Jews were just hired mourners and did not genuinely care. Nevertheless when they saw Jesus weep they were convinced that he was not hired but that he genuinely loved Lazarus.

Some people see tears as a sign of weakness, especially in men. That was not the case with Jesus. These people, the Jews, the very ones who would scorn Jesus saw his tears as evidence of the love he held for Lazarus. Our world today, as the Jews of that day, needs to see genuine love on display. We see hatred magnified, glorified and practically deified. Hatred is evidenced in the bombings in airports, mass killings in theaters, shootings in schools and mass murders in churches. We are quite often saying “behold how he hates them” but seldom do we find ourselves saying “behold how he loves them,” speaking of the ones who commit the murders. Our love should never be **seeking** attention but it should be of the kind that would naturally **draw** attention. Jesus did not weep for Lazarus seeking attention but his love for Lazarus drew the attention of the Jews.

Love should be on display in our homes. I just spoke with Brother Frank Grimes a few minutes before I started this devotion this morning. He was telling of Mrs. Agnes and the problem with her hip. It was obvious that his heart was breaking for her. My thoughts, as I got off the phone from talking with him, were “behold how he loves her.” Frank and Agnes Grimes would be a great model for a class on how a husband and wife should love each other. Their love for each other is on display every day. Their love for others is akin to the love they have for each other. They laugh together and weep together. Their pains and sorrows as well as their joys and rewards of life are all shared because of their love for each other.

God wants that love on display in our lives also. Our love for Jesus, for our families, for our friends, for the lost world should be seen by the world as it was seen by the Jews thousands of years ago. Our media will display the hatred. It is up to us to display the love of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram