We Can Rejoice Because Jesus Wept

Preached November 15, 2026

Primary texts: **John 11:35** and **1 Thessalonians 5:16**

Supporting passage: **Isaiah 53:3–6** | NKJV

Central truth

We can rejoice through sorrow because Jesus understands our grief, bore our sins, and rose again to secure our future with Him.

Name: _____

Study date: _____

Read prayerfully with an open Bible. Write honestly, and share only what you are comfortable sharing. Leave some questions for personal study if time is limited.

Beginning the study

Follow the message

1. Trusting Jesus while we wait
2. Bringing our tears to Jesus
3. Hoping in the Lord of life
4. Receiving the Savior who bore our sin
5. Practicing joy, prayer, and gratitude

Opening reflection

When have you found that trusting God and feeling sorrow can happen at the same time? You may reflect on this privately.

Remember

John 11:35 — *"Jesus wept."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 — *"Rejoice always,"*

1. Trusting Jesus while we wait

Read **John 11:1–27**

Jesus loved this family, yet His arrival did not follow their timetable. He brought Martha beyond her unanswered questions to faith in Him as the resurrection and the life.

1 Observe What do **John 11:5–6, 17** tell us about Jesus' love, His delay, and Lazarus's condition when He arrived?

2 Understand How does Jesus' conversation with Martha in **John 11:21–27** move her attention from what she wanted Him to do to who He is?

3 Apply privately Where has waiting made it difficult to trust Jesus? What honest prayer could you bring to Him this week?

2. Bringing our tears to Jesus

Read **John 11:28–37**

Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus, yet He wept among the mourners. Resurrection hope and real grief can exist together. His compassion also shapes how we care for people who hurt.

4 Observe What does Jesus see, ask, and do in **John 11:32–36**? What do the people recognize in His tears?

5 Understand How do **John 11:35**, **Hebrews 4:15–16**, and **Romans 12:15** help us understand grief and compassionate care?

6 Apply Who could you care for this week through listening, a meal, a visit, or remembering a difficult date? Choose one action and a day.

3. Hoping in the Lord of life

Read **John 11:38–53**

Jesus' compassion is joined to authority over death. Lazarus's return to earthly life points to the Savior whose own death and resurrection secure eternal life for His people.

7 Observe What happens after the stone is removed in **John 11:41–44**? How do people respond in **John 11:45–53**?

8 Understand How does **John 11:25–26** explain what this miracle reveals about Jesus? Why does it give hope when a loss is not reversed now?

9 Apply What promise about Jesus can steady you in an unresolved situation? How will you return to that promise when fear rises?

4. Receiving the Savior who bore our sin

Read **Isaiah 53:3–6**; **1 Corinthians 15:3–4**

The Man of sorrows entered our suffering and willingly bore our sins. His cross addresses our guilt before God, and His resurrection gives us a living Savior in whom to trust.

10 Observe In **Isaiah 53:3–6**, what belongs to us, and what does the Servant bear on our behalf?

11 Understand Why do we need more than comfort? Use **Isaiah 53:5–6**, **1 Peter 2:24**, and **1 Corinthians 15:3–4** to explain the good news.

12 Apply privately Where are you tempted to rely on good behavior, service, or comparison with others instead of Christ? What would it mean to trust His grace?

5. Practicing joy, prayer, and gratitude

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:14–18, 23–24**

Paul calls a suffering church to rejoice, pray, and give thanks within a patient, caring community. These responses grow from God's faithfulness and the hope secured by Jesus.

13 Observe What instructions appear in **1 Thessalonians 5:14–18**, and what assurance follows in **1 Thessalonians 5:23–24**?

14 Understand How do **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** and **2 Corinthians 6:10** help explain rejoicing during grief? What does thanksgiving in hardship allow us to acknowledge?

15 Apply Before reaching for your phone tomorrow, what one burden will you bring to God and what one reason for gratitude will you name?

Coming to Christ

Jesus understands your sorrow, and He also addresses your deepest need: forgiveness and a restored relationship with God. He lived without sin, bore our sins on the cross, was buried, and rose again. Turn from sin to Him and receive His gift of salvation through faith. Church attendance and good intentions cannot earn it.

Read **John 11:25–26** and **1 Corinthians 15:3–4**. Have you personally trusted Jesus Christ? If you already belong to Him, bring Him your grief and ask for grace to walk with Him today. A prayer expresses faith; Jesus is the One who saves.

Response prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me and bearing my sin. Help me trust Your finished work and come honestly with my sorrow. Teach me to rejoice in You, pray continually, and recognize Your mercy. Amen.

My next step

One truth about Jesus I will remember:

One action I will take, and when I will take it:

Someone I will ask for prayer or appropriate help:

Receiving support

You do not have to carry every burden alone. Let trusted believers pray with you and share practical needs. When caring for someone, ask what would help and keep showing up patiently.

Five-day reading and reflection

Day 1 · Trust while waiting

Read **John 11:1–27**

What does Jesus reveal about Himself while Martha is still grieving?

Bring one delayed answer to Him and ask for grace to trust His character.

Day 2 · Come with your tears

Read **John 11:28–37**; **Hebrews 4:15–16**

How does Jesus' compassion help you approach Him honestly?

Tell Him what hurts. Consider one gentle way to be present for someone else.

Continue in the Word

Day 3 · Rest in living hope

Read **John 11:38–44**; **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

How does resurrection hope change the way you carry loss?

Pray for someone who is grieving, and offer care without rushing their sorrow.

Day 4 · Receive His grace

Read **Isaiah 53:3–6**; **1 Corinthians 15:3–4**

What do these passages show about your need and Christ's finished work?

Confess sin honestly and thank Jesus for the forgiveness received through faith.

Continue in the Word

Day 5 · Practice grateful dependence

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:14–24**; **Revelation 21:1–4**

What mercy can you thank God for today, and what future promise steadies you?

Bring one burden and one reason for gratitude to Him. Revisit your next step.

Review your week

What happened with your next step, and how did God's Word affect the way you faced this week?

Sermon source: "We Can Rejoice Because Jesus Wept" by Pastor Kevin Darr, preached November 15, 2026, at Calvary Chapel Grants Pass.