

LENTEN

devotionals

SIXTH MONDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29, 2021

Today is the sixth week of Lent.

Take a moment to pause and
breath in and out slowly.

Intentionally.

Rest in and welcome God's
grace-filled presence.

Frederick Buechner helps to open the eyes of our hearts, to God's grace in our life, by writing, "Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where, if your soul is to be saved, you should go to next."

Think about the last time you were moved to tears? What might God have been enabling you to see?

There are two times in the Scriptures we explicitly join Jesus in His tears.

The first was in response to the death of His dear friend Lazarus. The second is found in the midst of the first Palm Sunday, today's key Scripture.

Taking the insights from what Buechner has shared with us, when we come to the tears of Jesus, it's a chance for us to create space for God's heart to be nurtured in us. For what breaks the heart of Jesus should also break ours.

Read today's Scripture.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of [Jesus] and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

...But as [Jesus] came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, [Jesus] began to weep.

Matthew 21; Luke 19

The response of Jesus and the response of the people are very different. What did the people see that caused them to celebrate? What did Jesus see that caused Him to weep in the midst of the celebration?

This is a scene that displays the heart of God. The tears of Jesus tell the story.

Where you would have expected a muscled stallion, lead by honor guards and banners...

There was a borrowed donkey, lead by palm branches and cloaks of common folks lining the way.

The tears of Jesus share the story of humility, surrender and

obedience towards the self-sacrificial love of the cross.

Where you would expect a triumphant leader feeding off the acclaim of the crowd singing out Hosanna.

There was Jesus weeping over a fickle people. For in a few days this same crowd will soon be yelling, "Crucify Him!"

The tears of Jesus share the story of people missing God's dream for their lives.

Sit with Jesus for a few moments allowing this picture of the first Palm Sunday to develop in your heart and mind.

As we return again to the scene of the first Palm Sunday, discern what do you cry about?... Who do you cry for?

Read today's Scripture again.

Consider extending this moment today by taking a walk with Jesus, through your neighborhood.

As you talk with Jesus on your walk or here now where you are, in these final moments today, ask Jesus to give you eyes to see what He sees and for the tears to notice where the Spirit is growing and leading you to have a heart after God's.

**Lord Jesus, search us,
and know our hearts;
test us and know
our anxious thoughts.
Point out in us anything
that offends you,
and lead us along
the path of everlasting life.**

Amen.