



"Jesus starting crying," (John 11:35 CEV)

Drops of blood had been dripping for hours from the thorns that had been thrust into His head. The blood from His head oozed over the flesh of His back and chest. His back was a mangled mess, torn to shreds from the flagrum, a Roman whip that had metal and fragmented bone attached to the leather, intending to tear the skin of the person being whipped. (1) While Jesus was hanging lifelessly on the cross after being severely beaten and tortured, a Roman soldier mockingly and without cause thrust a spear into His side. The Bible says Jesus was marred more than any man, and He was so disfigured that He hardly looked human. (Isa 52:14 KJV & GNB) If there was a man acquainted with pain, suffering, and grief it was Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53 says that He was oppressed, afflicted; His life was filled with sorrow, and He was a man acquainted with grief.

Jesus did cry and more than once. He also sees every tear that falls from your eyes and knows intricately all the anguish, agony, and pain in your heart when someone close to you dies. In John 11:35 Jesus was crying because someone close to Him died - Lazarus. Even the Jews around him knew this and said, "See how he loved Lazarus," because of Jesus' tears. (John 11:36) Jesus even knew the truth about death because He was there when the earth was formed (John 1:3) and had seen a lot of death over His many years, yet He cried anyway.

It can be difficult when a loved one dies and the tears that are flowing seem unending; however, Jesus stopped crying when he was ready, and He knew that God gives life to the dead. (Rom 4:17) Jesus knows and sympathizes with your pain and He sees how much you loved those who are gone. But there is a time when we, like Jesus, have to stop crying and place our loved ones and friends who have died in the loving hands of God. He gave us our life and "promises us eternal life" (1 John 2:25) despite the tears and pain.

(1) Bible History Online, The Roman Scourge.
Retrieved from <http://www.bible-history.com/past/flagrum.html>

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