

## Christmas Crying

What a sweet song, Away in a Manger.  
Did you think about what you just sang?

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

Jesus didn't cry? Really? Are we sure?  
Why would we need to affirm that?

If we mean **sinful crying**, then no, Jesus never for a second in his 33 years shed a tear due to or motivated by any sin on his part. He lived a perfect, sinless life.

But in as much as **crying is human**, and Jesus is fully human in all ways as we are, yet without sin, is it possible Jesus cried, either as a baby (perhaps tears of hunger, diaper rash, indigestion), child, teenager, or man?

Consider that Jesus' crying helps us understand the purpose of the incarnation, that at the birth of Christ God has come in the flesh to be with us.

### A. Why do we cry?

We cry for lots of reasons.

1. We cry when the **world is not right**: pain, loss, sorrow, regret, bitterness  
Ps137:1 *"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion."*  
Psalm 42:3 *"my tears are my food day and night"*  
We should cry when God doesn't receive the glory he deserves.
2. We cry when the **things in the world are right!**  
Joy, relief, happiness (the success of a child, safe return home)  
We can cry when God is properly adorned for the greatness of his glory.
3. We cry because we are commanded to  
James 4:8-9  
*"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep..."*  
Here are the **tears of repentance** commanded by God.  
Not tears of sorrow because our sin had made life bad for ourselves,  
but tears of **remorse** for how our sin has grieved the heart of God.  
The sin of God's own is an affront to his kindness, a sin against love,  
*For it is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance.* (Rom.2)

## B. Why did Jesus cry?

It's a good question. After all, Jesus is born a king. Kings typically don't cry, though they may make others cry, and people will cry before them!

Like Scrooge, kings are mostly isolated from things which make common folk cry.

We know for certain Jesus cried:

*“In the days of his flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with **loud crying and tears** to the One able to save Him from death, and he was heard because of his piety.”* (Hebrews 5:7)

### 1. Jesus is in touch with reality.

Jesus weeps when He feels the fallen ness of this world. He feels it much more acutely than the rest of us. If you are in an environment all day, such as your house, you are inoculated to the smell of it. Once you go outside to the fresh air, when you return you can tell the difference. We fallen creatures have a hard time telling the fallen ness of this world. But Jesus came from glory, sinless perfection, so he knows the depth and extent and bitterness of the smell of this world's sinfulness. He came from paradise to the garbage heap; he can tell the difference.

The godly response to sin is weeping. The word wasn't meant to be this way. When the fall crushes us, that part of us built for paradise, out come tears.

Tears speak thus: The pressure of pain, sorrow or loss in a fallen world is too much. So our hearts break and out flow the tears.

Jesus' heart broke over two main things:

1. **Death**: he wept at the tomb of Lazarus in John 11:44: *“Jesus wept”*
2. **Sin-induced hardness of heart**: He wept over unrepentant Jerusalem: *“And when he approached, he saw the city and wept over it.”* (Luke 19:41)

Summary:

Jesus identifies with us in our fallen ness and weeps over it.

Is. 53:3

*He was despised and forsaken of man, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief...*

### 2. He pronounces his blessing on our tears

Mt5:4 *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

God notices our crying; and God cares.

God is going to do something about it.

That fact unfolds in the drama of the Old Testament.

Ps.56:8 *“Thou hast taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Thy bottle; Are they not in Thy book?”*

Ps.126:5 *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy*

Is. 25:8 Is. 30:18-19 Is.51:11 Is.65:17-19

This idea is picked up by John in Revelation:

Rev.7:17 Rev.21:3-4

The dwelling of God will be among us ONLY because Jesus has come in the incarnation to cleanse us our sin.

He will wipe every tear from our eyes ONLY because Jesus has come in the incarnation to cover us in his righteousness thus making us touchable.

He will wipe every tear away as an **act of compassion**, intentionally, deliberately gently stroking the eyes of his children.

He will wipe away tears as an **act of justice** for us, thus making every wrong we suffer, right.

We are the ones who no crying we'll make, because Jesus came to inaugurate an eternity of rejoicing.

So we might sing:

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
to make this world right, and no crying **we'll** make.