Wake Up and Live Submitted by Minister Karen Williams

John 11:35 (NIV) "Jesus wept."

In the times like these there's so much going on. Like losing loved ones far too soon and suicide running rampant. I struggle to find the good in all of it until, I came across John 11:35, Luke 19:41, and Hebrews 5:7 where it tells us about Jesus' humanity... "Jesus wept." And many times, we've often heard comedians and the like often quote "Jesus wept" in jest. However, in times of crisis, in times of despair; it is comforting to know that Jesus had instances in his human experience where his circumstance moved him to tears. While that is not something to celebrate it gives us strength and encouragement that if Jesus experienced pain who are we not too.

The bible says, "Jesus wept." The context here in John 11:35 basically, is that Jesus's dear friend passed, and all be it, there was a purpose in it. Yes, there was purpose in it. It's reassuring knowing that we serve a Savior who was fully God but also fully human? In Isaiah 53:3 he prophesied that our Savior would be: despised, rejected, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Beloved, as part of the perfecting journey to wholeness/holiness as a Christian, we will be tried by the fire. We will experience devastating circumstances and untimely situations.

If by chance, you may be experiencing the pain of loss from the passing of a loved one, loss of employment, loss of a relationship, or perhaps your children are struggling, and you find yourself weeping. Be encouraged, Jesus wept and that is our sign that Jesus cares. He knows all about the pains and griefs we bear.

Here's the good news there will be joy after this. As we enter the Lenten season, we enter it knowing that even though our burdens get heavy and the price sometimes feels like our own personal Calvary There will be glory after this. Dry your tears beloved, because we serve a risen Savior who conquered death, hell and destruction, and therefore we can too.

Wake up and Live! There is purpose in our pain. Trust the process. God promised to be with us. Joy is coming in the morning. Believe that God is perfecting those things concerning us. Wake up and Live!