

Daily Devotion For April 5, 2023

“Jesus **wept.**” John 11:35

The beginning of 2023 has seen a few of our church family and friends go to be with the Lord. Kazuko Matsuyama passed away on New Year’s Eve, Dr. Cary Gota passed away on February 20th, and Akimi Irino passed on March 19th.

The past few years have seen not only the loss of loved ones but also the heartache of seeing loved ones become sick, lose jobs, education placed on hold, others have suffered financial losses, and these are just a few of the trials.

In John 11, just before Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he wept at the tomb of his dear friend Lazarus. Luke 19:41 tells us that Jesus wept over Jerusalem. When we look at the life of Jesus we see that he was a man of compassion. The nature and character of God is one of compassion. Jesus knows the heartache of loss and he is compassionate towards those who are sick and suffering.

As people mourn and grieve the passing of loved ones, I’m reminded of Psalm 56:8. *“You keep track of **all** my sorrows, You have collected **all** my tears in a bottle.”* This verse tells us that a tear that falls from our eyes does not go unnoticed by God

So many of our El Estero Church family and friends know the pain and heartbreak of seeing loved ones battling sickness, illness, and the loss of loved ones.

Thought For Today: Romans 12:15 tells us to “rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.” Take time to reflect on Psalm 56:8. How do you feel that God takes special notice of **all** your tears? May God fill us with compassion, and may we weep with those who weep.

Today’s Prayer Focus: Take time today to praise God that He is a God of compassion. Pray for a heart of compassion like Jesus and lift up those who are hurting and grieving. Nancy Nakajima is making good progress at Westland House, and Kiku Kuwatani was hoping to go home yesterday from CHOMP to recover at home. Deo Volente.