

Does Jesus Care?

Frank E. Graeff's song "Does Jesus Care" written in 1901 helps us remember that we have a loving savior who truly cares when all else seems to fail us. The first stanza reads, "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song, As the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long? O yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; when the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares."

Does Jesus care when we lose a loved one?

The Lord was warned of re-entering the region of Jerusalem due to a recent attempt to stone Him to death (Jn. 11:8). Jesus disregarded the warnings and traveled two days to Bethany where Lazarus, a beloved friend, had died. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came out to meet Jesus as he traveled toward Bethany and cried bitterly upon seeing Jesus. "*When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping who came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, where have ye laid him? They say unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. The Jews therefore said, behold how he loved him!*" (Jn. 11:33-36). The "groaning" was an expression of the Lord's anger and indignation at death itself that brings so much sorrows. The thought of death and sorrow "*troubled*" the Lord to the point that it caused him to "*weep*" over the death of Lazarus. The resurrection of Lazarus and the widow of Nain's son (Lk. 7:13) establishes that Jesus cares when we lose those we love in this life. Yes, He cares!

Does Jesus care when I sin through weakness of the flesh?

Jesus hates sin (Rom. 12:9) and is not in fellowship with those who sin (Isa. 59:1-2; I Jn. 1:5-7). There is, however, a side to Jesus that is compassionate and understanding when it comes to my weakness. Jesus so cares about me when I sin that the word of God says He "*succors*" (comes to one's aid) the sinner when tempted (Heb. 2:18), offers well-timed help when we are tempted (Heb. 4:16), and "*bears gently*" with the sinner that such a one may repent (Heb. 5:2). Indeed Jesus is "*longsuffering not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (II Pet. 3:9). Yes, He cares!

Does Jesus care when I'm sick?

The word "*compassion*" indicates a sharing of the suffering of another and the willingness to give aid to relieve the suffering. The synoptic gospels record many compassionate acts by Jesus. Matthew records, "*And he came forth, and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick*" (Matt. 14:14). Jesus was compassionate upon those who hungered (Matt. 15:32) and for the blind (Matt. 20:34), and He removed demons that possessed men (Mk. 5:1-19). Jesus is able to

express compassion because He, too, suffered while in the flesh (Heb. 5:8). Yes, He cares!

Jesus is the “good shepherd”

Jesus said, “*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep*” (Jn. 10:11). Jesus so loved His sheep (disciples) that He was willing to lay down His life for the flock. One is reminded of David in the OT. David faced a lion and a bear to protect his father’s flock. Jesus is here depicted as one who cares about the welfare of His disciples even to the point of laying down His life for their life. Does Jesus care? Yes He cares, I know He cares. His only desire for me is that I “*unite*” my faith and obedience together, giving diligence till the day I die (cf. Jn. 3:36; Heb. 4:2). Yes, He cares!

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