

Automatic Transcript of the sermon, "Jesus Cries With Us" by Mickey Briles, recorded on 24 September, 2023. Any auto-transcribed text may contain errors unintended by the speaker in the audio.

Normal. If I ask you what is normal, I mean, what is normal? If I ask you what is a normal person? I mean, how do we decipher? It used to be obvious, but now it's like I sometimes feel like I'm the only normal person in the world. We all think that it's like we're. We're have all the normal people gone.

Where are the people who have standards and all of that? I'm a church person, sent me a million things. She's here and I'm using her stories, not even here, but see me. This story about this couple, they were being interviewed, some it wasn't Fox News. I know that it was The View or something like that. But anyway, they were interviewing this couple.

There was a clearly man who had a beard on there, and then this other person was introduced as his wife, who was had some of the physical features of a female sitting there. But she looked very much like a man. And so when they introduced this couple and her being the wife, then the host said, Now, is that correct?

And this other person says, No, today I'm his husband. So biologically, a female. And on this day she chose to identify as his husband instead of his wife. I thought, oh, my. Wow, that is odd. That is just not normal for me. I mean, that is just there's just no way I can comprehend that being normal if you grew up, if you some of you who are born in 2000 up to now, you'll have no clue what normal is.

But those of you born in seventies and eighties, you know, I remember, you know, even as a kid, you'd go by and typically a man was doing the yard work on Saturday, you might remember those days maybe. And we always thought it was a woman doing the yard work. It was like either she is single or her husband's a drunk.

They were the two options, right? There was no in between that. It's just that's the way it is. You have a husband. He should be on the tractor. And if you don't, you know, then you have do it yourself. But otherwise that. And then I was thinking, well, I'm not sure that's true anymore because you might occasionally ride by my house and my wife might be pushing a lawnmower because she likes to get to the steps.

And that's what we're going to say in church. She likes to get the steps in, but I'm not a drunk. I mean, I don't like Mike Seltzer water. Okay. So it's like you can hardly say that that's normal. I mean, you can't I mean, you can't say that. And it's like, okay, so what is normal when it comes to people and humans?

And and one thing we have certainly learned, you can't put people in a box. It's like every family is going to look like this and be like that. But we are to the point where we don't even know what normal is in the same has gone with Christians. Some Christians, we think, well, there you say, well, they're a normal Christian or what is that people we don't have really understand what what that is and what does it mean to be a normal Christian or a biblical Christian?

Because everybody has their own interpretation. Everybody thinks something different. They apply a verse a different way. And so we don't even know what normal even Christian is. But today, one of the things that we have started doing as Christians, which has become normal and really should not be, but it's like I have caught myself saying, for instance, when people have a bad week and they go into details to what that bad week is, I immediately have caught myself trying to help God out and say, Well, God might be trying to teach you this through this hard week, or Christian, I'm really going to the fire right now.

And we automatically say, Well, God is refining you. He's trying. He's going to do great work in you. And I do believe all things work together for good to those who are called in, who love him and all that, I believe all of that. But Christian, we're trying to so hard to help somebody get through something that we start giving them reasons why God is doing what God is doing.

And the reality is we don't know what God is doing. We have no clue what God is doing. I mean, we can use verses many times. We take them out of context and say, this is probably what God is doing. But the reality is we don't know. And it happens so much at funerals. I've heard this said so many times where God just wanted your your spouse or your

kid or your grandpa more than in heaven, more than we need here.

That's the dumbest thing in the world. I mean, don't ever tell somebody that I was that guy that God wants us all in heaven, okay? And. And if he had his way, we would be living in Utopia now, singing goof this thing up. Okay? It's not that God wants to create. He's not making an a lot of people either.

By the way, that's not biblical. Papa is not an angel. He's not floating around. Okay? So don't be thinking that they're in heaven if they're saved. If they're not, say they're not in heaven. But let's. We live in a fallen world. Sin has mess this thing up and people are going to die. And you've got to get the church to that right.

It's like we're all going to die, right? But don't we don't have to make excuses for God. And so today we're going to look at a Bible verse and every single person in this room will have this verse memorized before you leave today, if you don't already, go with me to John chapter 11 John. Chapter 11 and verse 35.

All the pages you heard turning are people who don't have it memorized. All right, so there you go. But John, 11:35 in the Bible says this one verse, shortest version of Bible in the Bible says, Jesus wept. What do you do when you are in a weeping situation that is so emotional, that is so bad and you know, it can be fixed by God, but he doesn't.

What do you do when you're emotionally and you're just you've had such a bad week or weeks or months and it's like you don't want to feel I mean, nobody wants to feel bad. Nobody wants to feel hurt. Nobody wants to be depressed. Nobody wants to go through death, the fire, all of these things, nobody wants to go through that.

And one of the most unpopular things to say right now is in from church, especially across the board, is like the reality is you are going to experience life in a fallen world that is not going to be perfect. This is not going to be heaven on Earth. Thank God I'm looking for a better place. I mean, look for something better.

But the reality is there are going to be times where you are going to be so low, so down, so depressed, so bad, bad that you are going to cry. And if you go back to the original language here, this is not just a few tears he shared. This is wailing. This is like the heavy breathing, the snot blowing.

I mean, it's that kind of intense crying. We don't know how long this went on. We don't know if it went on for just three or 4 minutes or an hour. We don't know. But we know that in this situation, Jesus was crying uncontrollably, that he was letting it all out. Now, if you know the back story, Jesus had these three friends, Mary, Martha and the brother Lazarus, very good guy.

Lazarus is he's got okay, he's got the sister they sent for Jesus and he's making his way back and he's coming. He does not run. Done takes a slow way. He gets there and they run out to him and they say this, Jesus, if you'd been here, you know, he wouldn't have died. This this whole thing wouldn't have happened had you have been here.

Are they correct? Absolutely. If Jesus had been there, he could have prevented the death. He could also have prevented the death not being there. Okay. He didn't have to be there to prevent this thing. He could have done it from the place that he was, but he did not. However, when he sees this family, when he sees these girls, they they are they are tore up.

They are hurt, broken. They've lost a brother, a family member. He sees them in the Bible, says he looks at this and he just cries with them. Now, if you're a crime and I can fix it, guess what I want to do? I'm going to try to fix it. Almost every person in here I see very few people that I just want to see cry.

Well, maybe one or two, but for the most part, I don't. I don't want to see you cry. I don't want to see you hurt. I really don't want to see you lose a loved one. I don't want to see your kids drive you bonkers. I don't want to see your parents drive you bonkers. I don't want to see you lose your job.

Listen, I will absolutely what is best, in my opinion, for you and in my opinion, what's best for you is to come in here week after week and say, I have had a great week. In my opinion, that's what's best for you, don't you? I wish I could get my way, but for myself, when I walk with you, Jesus, for some reason I thought it'd be okay for these two girls to lose

their brother.

For these two girls to have a time of intense sorrow. He thought it would be okay for them to go through the process of losing somebody that they loved. Not only love, but they weren't married as far as when they needed the man. They needed that brother. I mean, he they needed him. They had all this. What was going on him.

Jesus lets him, lets him die. And here's what we have to learn. As Christians, though, I want to fix every situation. Some people just don't need you to come in and fix everything. Some people who are hurting in here are going through it. They really don't need our philosophy and our scenarios of why they're going through it or why God is allowing them to go through it.

That is not necessarily what they need to hear. These girls didn't get a theological exposition on why that happens. In all that, the Bible says that Jesus gives a little bit of a speech about in the resurrection and to rise again. And they didn't quite understand all of that. And then the Bible says he just cries with that, His God in the back of his mind.

He knows what he's going to do. He's going to blow their minds. And he could have said, Girls, just stop crying. Like, just get up. You sisters are upset. Come on, boy. He could have done that. That's been pretty cool. That's what I want him to do when I'm upset. God, just fix it. We'll talk about the theological in the resurrection.

All that later. God just. Just raised them from the dead. The situation is dead. God. Just. Just raise it. I'm. They never asked for him to come and cry with him. That ain't what they wanted. They wanted him to fix it. They already assumed it was too late. They tell him. So you got the two women crying. I think he may gave him some chocolate first.

Y'all think so? I don't know. I think it may sit here, marry him with chocolate and bring out the Kleenex, which had these two emotional women whose hearts have been broken. And Jesus cries with, I'm going to tell you what one of the most godly things you can do as a Christian and as a brother and sister in Christ.

It's not go up to somebody and say, this is why you're going through it. Here's you a verse. Sometimes the most Christian thing you can do since you're on the front row, by the way, is say, you know what? I'm not going to say anything. I'm just going to here's some chocolate and a Kleenex and cry with them.

Know it all Christianity that we think we know everything and know what God is doing is crazy because we don't know what he's doing, what people really need is instead of somebody knowing it all is to be all in with them when they're going it. So don't feel like, Oh gosh, my friend lost her job.

I got a verse for that. Got to find a verse and I'm going to text her this verse and so she'll know it. And I you just be there. You just be there. And one of the toughest things about this job is I can't fix stuff. I've had several situations in the past two or three weeks. So she'll and I thought prayed when I first heard a half a God help you good about bad.