

## **THIS IS ONEIDA HAVE A GOOD CRY**

Psalm 126:5 says, “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.” As a young man, I watched from a distance as my parents poured themselves into Oneida’s ministry and students. One particular student that my parents invested greatly in seemed to break my parents’ hearts with the poor decisions he repeatedly made. During one of those difficult times with that student, I made a gift for my mom that was inscribed with this verse from Psalm 126:5.

John 11:35 says, “Jesus wept.” Jesus’ friend, Lazarus, had died, but was this why He wept? Jesus knew he would soon bring Lazarus back to life. I believe Jesus wept in part because of the lack of faith Mary exhibited in questioning Him. There is a difference between crying and weeping. Jesus wept, which is more than just crying.

When was the last time you had a good cry? I am not really a crier, and can’t really recall the last time I did have a good cry. Unfortunately, young boys are often taught that men shouldn’t cry. Have you ever watched a movie that made you cry? Have you ever tried to hide that crying from the people watching the movie with you? Having a good cry can be both therapeutic and liberating. Although I wouldn’t call it a “good cry,” I did see my oldest son cry recently at a time I was not necessarily expecting him to cry. We were walking out of a gym from a ball game of a team that he and I both love. Our team had lost and my son cried as we left the building. An elderly lady who was a fellow fan caught my eye because she had noticed my son crying as well. She gave me a sad but comforting look that said, “I feel bad for your little boy and I want to cry, too.”

Over the course of this school year, I have witnessed many of our students cry. I have seen kids cry after their team lost an athletic event. I have seen kids cry when some of their friends have left Oneida, and I have seen kids cry in chapel and church services. I am sure there have been many other instances in which our students have cried. I am sure our faculty and staff, who get to work much more closely with our students than I do, have seen much more crying than I have.

Our young people come to Oneida from all different places, experiences, and backgrounds. Many of them have experienced difficult and unfair things in life. While there is nothing wrong with crying, we do have to move on at some point and look toward the future and plans that the Lord has for us. Drawing from our own experiences, we try to teach our students that many times we need to leave our past behind us and look forward to what lies ahead.

Once we receive our eternal crowns and are in the permanent presence of our Lord, there will be no more crying. Until we reach that wonderful place we call heaven, we must do our very best to fix our eyes on Christ and glorify Him, no matter what happens to us in this life. Have a good cry when necessary, but reap in joy!



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