

There is a scripture from Lamentations that to me reflects the depth of Christ's suffering, in the sense of Him crying over us (as He did over Jerusalem)¹:

*My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; **my heart is poured out on the ground** because my people are destroyed ...*
Lamentations 2:11a,b

As Jeremiah is the spokesman for God, I believe that this echoes God's feeling, and indicates that the tears are really from God in His concern for His people. This anguish for us is later shown in the sacrifice of the blood and body of Christ, God's Son (even as He prayed in the garden²).

Jesus said in Matthew 26:28:

*This is my blood of the covenant, which is **poured out** for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

When I think of Christ shedding His blood for us, I consider that the contents of His heart indeed poured out on the ground, and presumably lost. He allowed this because He loved us so! Like Abel's blood, it cried out to God from the ground³. Now it cries out to us!

The Old Testament indicates that the blood of sacrifices was to be poured out on the ground like water⁴. If you have ever poured something precious out on the ground, you know that it is lost and not recoverable⁵, and it likely makes you sad. But the blood of the sacrifice is somehow recovered (or absorbed) by God, and is able to save us.

Christ's body was also recovered by God, and not allowed to see decay⁶. As we partake in this communion, I think of us sharing in that recovery of body and blood as we become beneficiaries of His Grace.

Another scripture from Lamentations describes what should be our response to God's Grace:

*The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. ... let your tears flow like a river day and night ... Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; **pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.***
Lamentations 2:18a,19a

So we must pour out our own hearts, letting sorrow and repentance flow in the presence of God and into the depths of His Grace.

1. Luke 9:41
2. Luke 22:44
3. Genesis 4:9-11
4. Leviticus 4:25, 30, 34; 8:15; 9:9; also Deuteronomy 12:24 where meat slaughtered for food was poured out like water
5. see 2 Samuel 14:11, 12-14
6. Ps 16:9; referred to in Acts 2:27, Acts 2:31, Acts 13:34, Acts 13:35, Acts 13:36, Acts 13:37

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Notes:

Luke 22:44; “And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

[in their sin and struggle...] The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. ... let your tears flow like a river day and night ... Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; **pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.** Lamentations 2:18a,19a

[Christ poured out His heart in the presence of God] [this is what we are doing in comm comm] [we must do this as well]

Connect this with the first scripture

[note David pouring out the water that the three mighty men offered him after fighting their way through the Philistine lines]

once poured, the water was no longer useful to man, but recoverable to God

[“Pouring out our hearts” is like letting tears of sorrow and repentance flow.]

My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed ... (Lamentations 2:11a,b); [Christ] Christ crying over Jerusalem... (Luke 19:41)

[These tears are really from God (through the body of Christ), concerned for His people.]

parallel: Abel’s blood crying out; (Genesis 4:9-11) Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.”

Christ’s blood was poured out on the ground (He allowed it because He loved mankind)

I keep spilling my cup onto the carpet, not only unrecoverable but difficult to clean

You would think that it is not recoverable;

but both body and blood were resurrected in some way

we are part of that recovery

Deuteronomy 12:24; “You must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water. Have you ever spilled a drink or oil or something onto the ground?” [this is for meat that is slaughtered for food]

Leviticus 4:25, 30, 34; 8:15; 9:9

Luke 22:44; “And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Sacrifices of blood; not recoverable by man but absorbed by God

the blood poured out into the ground is “unrecoverable” (by us)

the ground receives it and it cannot let go

– except through the power of God;

Perhaps we are part of or share in that recovery

the body was recovered too, and not allowed to see decay (from the grave)

we commemorate this first, and then the blood
think about “every precious drop”, the idea inspired by Meme
(Ps 16:9; referred to in Acts 2:27, Acts 2:31, Acts 13:34, Acts 13:35, Acts 13:36, Acts 13:37)
think of the saying about spilled milk; (don’t cry over it)

[Joab working through the woman from Tekoa to get David to bring Absalom back]
2 Samuel 14:11,12-14; She said, “Then let the king invoke the Lord his God to prevent the
avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed. ... Then
the woman said ... Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must
die.”

the “reality” of the body and blood vs “symbol”; it is real in the larger sense no matter which
interpretation we have

also consider “words fall to the ground”; some similarity to blood in the ground; 1 Sam 3:19

Matthew 26:28; This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Mention the resurrection?

Interesting:

Blood was to be poured on a bare rock and not covered. This act of not covering blood would be
considered a violation of the Mosaic law (Lev. 17:10-16; see Gen. 4:10; Job 16:18). Holman
Old Testament Commentary – Ezekiel; Rooker, Mark, loc.3613