

**Message #94****Luke 19:41-44**

Several years ago, I attended a funeral of a very godly individual. This person had influenced many people for Jesus Christ and the great majority of people at this funeral were believers. There was a young lady at the funeral that was related to the person who died. Although she knew the truth about Jesus Christ, she was certainly not in fellowship with Him nor was she living her life following Him. As this young lady neared the casket, her eyes fell on the body of the one who had gone to be with the Lord. I am certain the times this person shared Christ with her raced through her mind and the fact that she had brought so much grief weighed heavy on her and she began to sob, saying, "I am so sorry; I am so sorry." I will never forget that scene. That girl realized what might have been but it was too late to change that relationship. Her loved one was now gone and all she could do was weep.

When Jesus Christ came to this earth, He came to the Jewish people to offer Himself as the King and offer God's promised Kingdom to Israel. The plan was that Israel would be the great nation of God and Jerusalem would be the capital of the world. However, before He could give Israel that Kingdom, she needed a national, internal, spiritual righteousness she did not have. He invited the nation to repent, but she wouldn't do it. **So instead of Israel inheriting a Kingdom, she would inherit judgment.**

When Jesus Christ got to Jerusalem, He realized what could have been and His heart was so moved that He wept. Christ knew what could have been in this relationship. He knew that instead of this nation having millennial bliss, she would experience horrific judgment and He wept.

What is so clear from this text is that:

**JESUS CHRIST WEEPS WHEN HE REALIZES THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS THAT PEOPLE COULD HAVE RECEIVED IF THEY HAD RESPONDED TO HIM AND HIS WORD BUT KNOWS THE NEGATIVE JUDGMENTS THEY WILL RECEIVE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T.**

When Jesus Christ sees what could have been if the people had just responded to His word but realizes what will be because they didn't, it breaks His heart and makes Him cry.

Now in this text, there are two main action scenes:

**ACTION SCENE #1** – Jesus Christ approaches Jerusalem and sees the city. **19:41a**

Jerusalem is the great capital city of God. It was and still is prophetically destined to be the city from which Jesus Christ will reign (Zech. 6:12-13; 14:16-17).

Not long ago, a Catholic priest said on national news that Rome is the eternal city. He really ought to read the Bible, because Rome is not the eternal city, Jerusalem is the eternal city.

There are five Biblical facts we want to bring out about this city:

**Fact #1** - Jerusalem is the city of David. II Sam. 5:6-12 - God led David to make it the capital city.

**Fact #2** - Jerusalem is the city of the King of Kings - Matt. 5:35 - Jesus Christ will reign here.

**Fact #3** - Jerusalem will be the city of God's governmental center of world government.  
Is. 2:1-4

**Fact #4** - Jerusalem was to be a city of joyous praise to God. Ps. 48:1-3, 12-13

**Fact #5** - Jerusalem was to be the chief joy of God. Ps. 137:6

Jerusalem is the most important city to God in the entire Bible. Since Jesus Christ is God, this moment when He finally comes into the city was very special.

Jesus entered Jerusalem from the SE side from the Mount of Olives (Luke 19:37). Alfred Eidershiem, a Jewish historian who wrote a classic work on the Life and Times of Jesus Christ in the 1800's, describes the scene:

“The road descends a slight declivity and the glimpse of the city is again withdrawn behind the intervening ridge of Olivet. A few moments and the path mounts again...and in an instant the whole city bursts into view.”

I will never forget the first time I saw New York City. We parked our car at the airport in New Jersey and took a bus from the airport to the Port Authority in NY, located on 8<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> street. To get into the city, you go under the Hudson River and through a tunnel. Shortly after coming out of the tunnel, you turn and wind until you end up in the terminal area on the second floor of the Port Authority. You take an elevator down to the main floor and you walk out the glass doors and you get your first glimpse of New York City. It really is something to see. It is an impressive work of architecture.

Jerusalem was that way at this moment. Jesus would have twisted and turned and ascend up a hill and all of a sudden there it was, the city in all of its glory and beauty. It was to most a very impressive sight, but to Jesus it was a very depressing sight.

**ACTION SCENE #2** – Jesus Christ weeps for the city. **19:41b-44**

The tears that Jesus is shedding here are not tears of joy.

I will never forget the scene on January 20, 1981, when the U.S. hostages from Iran were released after 444 days in captivity. When those hostages got back to the United States, almost every one of them started to cry. They wept because they were so happy to be home.

It should have been that way for Jesus Christ. But He is not weeping because He is happy; but because He is sad. He is weeping because He knows what could have been and He also knows what really exists and what is going to happen.

There are many different things that could have motivated Him to weep when He saw Jerusalem:

**(Motive #1)** - Because He knew of His own upcoming suffering in Jerusalem. Heb. 5:5-8

**(Motive #2)** - Because He knew of the nation's unbelief in Jerusalem.

John 11:1-7, 11-17, 20-23, 32-43

**(Motive #3)** - Because He knew of missed blessings that could have been in Jerusalem.

**Luke 19:42**

**(Motive #4)** - Because He knew of future judgment that will come upon Jerusalem. **Luke 19:43**

However, in this text, Jesus, Himself, mentions three specific reasons why He wept:

**Reason #1** - Because of Israel's prophetic ignorance. **19:42a**

The people of Israel should have known the prophetic program of God and in fact they should have known about this very day. The "if" clause that begins the verse is somewhat of an odd second class contrary to fact conditional clause. What is odd about it is that Christ doesn't finish the statement. This is a very emotional moment for Jesus Christ. What Christ is saying here is this: "If you only had known, *but you do not know*." They should have known but they didn't know about this great day when the Messiah would come into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Daniel predicted in Daniel 9:25 that 69 sevens or 483 years or 173,880 days after a decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given that the Messiah would come into Jerusalem and be cut off.

The edict to rebuild Jerusalem in its entirety was given by Artaxerxes in March 5, 445 BC (Neh. 2:1ff). If you start counting the years and days from March 5, 445 BC, you arrive 483 years later to the date March 30, AD 33, the very day Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9). It is no wonder that Jesus said you should have "known this day."

This was the very day that Jesus Christ could have given Israel the things that make for peace. He could have given her the righteousness she needed to give her peace with God and He could have brought national peace to Israel as the honored nation of God. That day He went to Jerusalem could have produced all of these things. But she rejected Him and, as a result, she missed every bit of it.

Had Israel recognized Christ was the Messiah and repented and had the people obeyed Him, making the internal and external changes this day would have ushered in a Kingdom of Peace led by the Prince of Peace. But Israel was so ignorant of prophetic Scriptures that she didn't have a clue and that made Jesus Christ weep.

There is nothing that saddens the heart of God more than when His people are ignorant of God's word. God has specifically given His word to people and nothing breaks His heart more than when His family doesn't purpose to understand it. Quite honestly, it is not the majority who understands the deep things of God. It is not the majority who go to church to hear God's word carefully and exegetically expounded. Most are just content to drift through life with an ignorance of the Scriptures, and that breaks God's heart.

**Reason #2** - Because of Israel's judicial blindness. **19:42b**

Another reason why Jesus wept is because at this point Israel had reached a point where it was too late for grace. Time was up. There were no more chances at that point, nationally speaking.

The verb "hidden" is passive, meaning that God had judicially blinded Israel from being able to see and understand the truth concerning Jesus Christ and the Messianic program of God (Romans 11:7-10).

There are people who think they can just pick and choose God's program whenever they want. There are some who think they have all the time in the world to decide what they will do with Jesus Christ. Not according to God's word. There does come a time when God will not permit people to understand His truth. There comes a point when God will not allow people to see and understand His word.

When it comes to this grace age:

- 1) The Bible clearly states that God can give people over to hell (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).
- 2) The Bible clearly states that God can give people over to ignorance (Heb. 6:1, 3).

God can and will pronounce judgments of judicial blindness on people, just like He did with Israel.

God is a God to be feared, not mocked. His word is to be taken very seriously. Israel took it lightly and Jesus wept because God put a judicial blindness on national Israel that exists to this very day.

**Reason #3** - Because of Israel's future judgment. **19:43-44**

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer writes, "While the name Jerusalem may likely mean 'city of peace,' it has in its history been the location of more wars than any other locality in the world" (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 7, p. 209).

When **verse 43** begins with the word "for the days will come upon you," those are not good words to hear from Jesus Christ. When the O.T. prophets used those words, those words often predict horrible judgment. Jeremiah used this phrase in a context of days of slaughter (Jer. 7:32). Isaiah used the phrase to refer to bringing God's people to nothing (Is. 39:6).

So when Jesus begins a sentence “for the days will come upon you,” it is not good news. In **verses 43-44**, Jesus predicts exactly what will happen to Jerusalem. He describes a time of unprecedented hostility, when men, women and children are slaughtered and the city is brought to complete destruction. This is clearly a prediction of what would happen in AD 70 with Titus and Rome. Jesus looked into the future and saw what would happen on September 26, AD 70, when Titus would sweep into Jerusalem and do exactly what Jesus predicted here.

Let me read what Josephus wrote:

“Pouring into the streets (of the upper city), they massacred everyone they found, burning the houses with all who had taken shelter in them. So great was the slaughter that in many places the flames were put out by streams of blood. Towards evening the butchery ceases, but all night the fires spread, and when dawn broke, all Jerusalem was in flames. ... Still the troops killed the old and feeble. ... Titus placed a guard over them and ordered his friend Fronto to decide what should be done with them... 11,000 died of starvation, some because of the guards, through hatred, would not give them food, others because they refused the food when offered. Fronto executed all the rebels, reserving the tallest and most handsome of the youths for the triumph. Of the rest, those over the age of seventeen were sent to the mines in Egypt or presented to the provinces to be destroyed by sword or beast in the theaters. Those under seventeen were sold. The total number of prisoners taken during the war was 97,000 and those who died during the siege 1,100,000. The greater part of these were of Jewish blood.. ... people had flocked into Jerusalem from all parts of the country for the feast of Unleavened Bread, they found themselves engulfed in the war and overcrowding that produced pestilence and famine. ... The Romans now went down into the subterranean passages and killed all they found, discovering 2,000 who had died from violence or famine. ... The Romans set fire to the outlying quarters of the city and demolished the walls to the ground” (Paul L. Maier, *Josephus The Essential Writings*, pp. 365-367).

Jesus Christ saw every bit of this coming and He wept.

Why would God permit this? Why would God let these horrible things happen to Israel? **The answer is found at the end of verse 44, “because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.” The reason for all of this is because she did not recognize and, in fact, rejected Jesus Christ.**

That word “visitation” is one that refers to the one who has oversight, or the one who is in charge. It refers to one who is a bishop in charge. This horrible judgment was sanctioned by God because when Israel’s Messiah and Bishop, Jesus Christ, came to her, she rejected Him.

That is what caused Jesus Christ to weep. He knew what could have been and He knew what would actually take place.

But know this, Christ’s weeping did not stop or prevent or change this judgment from coming. It did come and what He saw did happen.

Take a good look at **verse 43-44**. Christ’s love and even His tears will not stop the judgment of God. God’s judgment will come to those who reject Him.