



ST. PATRICK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

4797 Curtis Rd Port ST John FL 32927

The 10th Sunday in Trinity
August 8, 2021

✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Today's reading is a small portion of a greater narrative, which seems more appropriate to the season of Holy Week.

Jesus was headed to Jerusalem; there was nothing that would get in His way. Even though He has stopped and ministered to people, He has never lost sight of His final goal. As He completed the final days of His life, He had been healing the sick, feeding the hungry, returning sight to the blind, raising the dead and teaching the people about the love of God. In the reading we heard from Luke's gospel a few minutes ago, Jesus wept. Does that surprise you? After all, Jesus and God are one in the same. It's not really a surprise because Jesus was also human, so He had human needs and emotions, including sorrow. This was not the first time He wept. He wept shortly before He raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

In this passage from Luke, we heard how Jesus wept over the future of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. He wept because the Jews were ignoring the teachings of the prophets. They were putting earthly matters above their love of God. Jesus also wept because He knew the real tragedy of the moment. He about to enter Jerusalem in triumph. He knew this moment of glory and the joyous reaction of the crowds were superficial and would not last. He knew that the city would be destroyed, and indeed it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Jerusalem's destruction was God's judgment for their failure to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

From the time of David onward, Jerusalem was the center of Israel and of her religion. But as Jesus looked at it, the temple was no longer a place of glory, holiness, and wonder but a picture of the terrible decay in the Jewish religious system.

The rejection of Jesus by the Jews was predicted in the Old Testament, but Jesus was still saddened by their rejection. This likely reflected God's heart as He thought about how the Jews rejected His prophets. Jesus was also thinking about His Second Coming and the coming of the kingdom. The things that make for peace were the things that would lead the Jews to salvation. Because they did not realize that Jesus was the long-promised Messiah, they did not realize the way to salvation.

Ironically, Jerusalem means "City of Peace." Jesus wept because of the great privileges that were being abused. A great marketplace was set up to sell items to be offered as

sacrifices in the temple, instead of bringing fruits of their own labor. He wept because of the great possibilities that were rejected. He also wept because of the great punishment He knew was coming on the city and the people. Jerusalem had abandoned its faith, rejected the Messiah, and would be laid to waste with terrible judgment. This was their opportunity. Jesus made himself available to them, but they nailed Him to the cross.

Jerusalem represents all of our hometowns. Have you ever wept or shown concern for your own neighbors? We could weep for our neighbors who don't know the peace of Christ. They don't know the cure for the loneliness that results in destructive patterns. In some ways, we are like the Jews. Do we realize it when God does something special in our midst? How many people in the world today know God, even though God created the world around us? How many people know God even though the Bible reveals His plan for our lives?

And now, as He approached Jerusalem, He would be met by crowds who saw Him as the savior that would stop the oppression of the Roman. He would be greeted in a 'triumphal entry'; people would be lining the road, cheering for Him. They would be crying: "Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

There was intense anticipation that He was going to do a wonderful thing – they were going to be free of the Roman officials. They had been promised by God that someone would come to save them. Everyone in Israel had been taught that the Messiah would be enthroned as King in Jerusalem. The Old Testament made it very clear that the coming King would come to Jerusalem to establish His kingdom. Since the Garden of Eden, all of heaven and earth have been waiting for that moment when the Messiah would enter Jerusalem for the last time, establishing the Kingdom of God.

But, Jesus knew that the kingdom He was to establish was not of this earth, and the people did not understand.

As Jesus began his final walk to Jerusalem, He stopped on the hill overlooking the city, called the Mount of Olives where He had previously preached the Sermon on the Mount. He looked over Jerusalem and "he wept over it".

Some of the people in the crowd thought that they were witnessing a revolution. They were certain that they would be saved from the Roman government. They were cheering for the promised Messiah.

But those cheers turned to jeers by the end of the week; Jesus was turned over to the Romans for trial, found guilty of trying to overthrow the government and was rejected by the people for the life of Barabbas.

If someone did that to us, we would be angry and not care what happened to those people. But Jesus was the perfect man and perfect God, forgiving each of them as a loving parent would forgive a naughty child. He was disappointed, sorrowful and moved to tears.

Do you know, there are only three instances in the Bible where Jesus is said to have wept? 1. The first time is when He travels to the house of Mary and Martha after Lazarus has died and been buried for four days. He was so touched by their sorrow that He raised Lazarus from the dead. 2. We just heard that Jesus wept before He entered Jerusalem for the last time in today's Gospel. He wept then because He knew that the people did not understand about the Kingdom of God, and men, women and children were going to

continue to suffer. He knew that, ultimately, on Maundy Thursday the people would turn Him over to the Roman government to be crucified. 3. The last time He wept was when He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of His betrayal. He prayed that He would be strong enough to undertake the challenge He had in front of Him.

There is a common theme through these three instances when Jesus wept – His love of the people and sorrow that they did not understand about the Kingdom of God. They did not understand that the eternal life one finds through the resurrection of Jesus is the peace of the Kingdom of God.

The people of Israel rejected Him.

When we weaken in our faith, or disobey His teachings, Jesus weeps for us, but He still cares for all of us.

The events to come as we read in this chapter of Luke (19) that we are still saved by His crucifixion and resurrection. We know this because He had promised us:

“Never will I leave thee; never will I forsake thee”

So as we live our lives each day, let us remember this assurance from God:

" Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Thanks be to God!

Amen

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.