

Luke 19:41-44

⁴¹As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it ⁴²and said, “If only you had known, on this day, what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you when your enemies will barricade you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will level you to the ground—you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

Berean Standard Bible, UK

1

What God will do to sinners. Luke 19:41-44

God’s grief for sinners. 19:41

Jesus is God here for sinners. 41a “approached and saw”

Jesus is God’s heart for sinners. 41b “He wept over it”

God’s cry for sinners. 19:42

Sinners can know salvation. 42a “If only you had known”

Sinners don’t know salvation. 42b “But now it is hidden”

God’s knowledge of sinners. 19:43-44a

Sinners will suffer punishment. 43 “your enemies will...”

Sinners cause others to suffer. 44 “you and the children”

God’s hope for sinners. 19:44b

Sinners need to accept the Truth. 44b “because you did not recognize”

Sinners need to accept Jesus. 44b “your visitation from God”

2

Planning at alternate ending. Luke 19:41-41

Known present. 19:41

Known physically. 41a “approached and saw”

Known spiritually. 41b “He wept over it”

Unknown future. 19:42

Knowledge can be unveiled. 42a “If only you had known”

Knowledge can be undiscovered. 42b “But now it is hidden”

Known future. 19:43-44a

Consequences are inevitable. 43 “days will come upon you when...”

Consequences are always connected. 44 “you and the children”

Unknown present. 19:44b

Knowledge is available. 44b “you did not recognize”

Knowledge is relational. 44b “your visitation from God”

3

‘Need to know’ basis. Luke 19:41-44

What can be known by reason. 19:41-42

How to know. 41 “approached and saw”

What to know. 42 “what would bring you peace”

What can be known by revelation. 19:43-44a

Factual knowledge. 43 “days will come upon you”

Personal knowledge. 44 “you and the children”

What can be known by recognition. 19:44b

Recognise the time. 44b “recognize the time”

Recognise the spirit. 44b “your visitation from God”

4

Do you see what I see? Luke 19:41-44

What my future could be. 19:41-42

I am on a path into my future. 41 “Jesus saw... He wept”

I have more potential in my future. 42 “If only”

What my future must be. 19:43-44a

My timeline is inevitable. 43 “the days will come”

My consequences are inevitable. 43-44 “they will... they will”

What my future may be. 19:44b

I need to choose my future. 44 “not recognize the time”

I need to change my future. 44 “your visitation from God”

5

With the wisdom of foresight. Luke 19:41-44

Seeing with the heart of Jesus. 19:41

I start by examining where I am. 41a “approached and saw”

I start by expressing what I feel. 41b “He wept over it”

Seeing with the mind of Jesus. 19:42

I need to bring peace. 42a “If only you had known”

Or I will be brought problems. 42b “But now it is hidden”

Seeing with the insight of Jesus. 19:43-44a

I need to prepare for my future. 43 “your enemies will...”

I need to protect my future. 44 “you and the children”

Seeing with the understanding of Jesus. 19:44b

I need to grasp Truth more clearly. 44b “because you did not recognize”

I need to live Truth more personally. 44b “your visitation from God”

6

Don't refuse the offer too good to refuse. Luke 19:41-44

Jesus offers you His heart. 19:41

Jesus is here with you. 41a “approached and saw”

Jesus is here to weep with you. 41b “He wept over it”

Jesus offers you His peace. 19:42

Jesus offers you what you don't have. 42a “If only you had known”

Accept Jesus' offer or lose it forever. 42b “But now it is hidden”

Jesus offers you His alternative. 19:43-44a

Without Jesus, things will get worse for you. 43 “your enemies will...”

Without Jesus, things will get worse for others. 44 “you and the children”

Jesus offers you Himself. 19:44b

Jesus offers you His wisdom. 44b “because you did not recognize”

Jesus offers you His presence. 44b “your visitation from God”

Other possible titles

Better than a crystal ball

How to make Jesus weep

You can dry the tears of Jesus

Peace in our time

When will I weep for the lost?
Cost of not converting
With a tear in the eye
It's my party and I'll cry if I want to (Lesley Gore)
Tears amid the triumph
Seeing at alternate future
This can only end in tears
You think it is bad now? The worse is yet to come.
You will indeed reap what you sow.
My better future begins with today's choices.
Listen to the beating heart of God

Commentary

This incident has been recorded only by Luke. It is recorded immediately following the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem seated on a donkey, and immediately preceding the second cleansing of the temple.

This event occurs, "As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city" (v41) as part of His triumphal entry. Therefore, the date was the Sabbath Day, 9 Nisan 4178 AC (After Creation), or Saturday 2 March 30 AD.

Two days later, on the evening of Monday 4 March 30 AD, or the beginning of the Third day of the week, 12 Nisan 4178 AC, Peter, James, John, and Andrew, received the additional teaching we call the Olivet Discourse. This not only gives extra details about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, but Jesus also added many details about His Second Coming. We shall focus on that teaching in Luke 20:1-38.

⁴¹As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He **wept** over it.

The Greek New Testament has two words that are translated into English as 'wept' or 'weep' or 'shed tears' or 'cry'.

The first word is found in John 11:35 where we read, 'Jesus wept' at the grave of Lazarus. That word is the verb δακρύω [Strong's 1145] (pronounced dak-roo-o) which means 'to shed quiet tears; to weep silently'.

The other word is the one used here in Luke 19:41 where Jesus weeps over Jerusalem. This word is the verb κλαίω [Strong's 2799] (pronounced klah-i-yo) which means 'weep aloud; shed uncontainable tears; audible sobbing; wail'. "Jesus burst into sobbing as he lamented [their] lost opportunity." (Morris)

⁴²and said, "If only you had known, on this day, what would bring you **peace**!

The word εἰρήνη [Strong's 1515] (pronounced i-ray-nay) is a noun that occurs 92 times in the Greek New Testament. Its root is εἰπω which means 'to unite; tie together into a whole; wholeness; all essential parts are joined together'.

Peace is an important theme in Luke's Gospel, where the word εἰρήνη occurs 14 times. That is more frequently than the other three Gospels combined (Matthew, 4 times; Mark, once; and John 6 times).

Peace is a theme of the songs which Luke records. Zechariah concludes his song of praise with the words, "to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Luke 1:79)

The song of the Christmas angels is, ""Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to humanity on whom His favour rests!" (Luke 2:14)

In the temple, Simeon "took Him in his arms and blessed God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation" (Luke 228-30)

Jesus not only grants forgiveness, but also peace. To a sinful woman, He gives the assurance, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

To the woman whose touch granted healing, "Daughter," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you. Go in peace." (Luke 8:48)

Peace is the blessing which Jesus instructs His disciples to give (Luke 10:5, 6, 6)

Other Lucan references to peace are: Luke 11:21, 12:51, 14:32, 19:38, 19:42, and 24:36.

The word 'Jerusalem' means 'dwelling of peace; city of peace'.

The description which Josephus has given of the taking of Jerusalem by Titus, may be considered as a comment upon these prophecies... "Thus was Jerusalem taken, in the second year of Vespasian's reign, on the 8th day of September; and having been already five times surprised, it was again finally destroyed. Such was the end of the besieging of Jerusalem, when there was none left to kill, nor any thing remaining for the soldiers to get. Caesar commanded them to destroy the city and temple, only leaving certain towers standing, that were more beautiful than the rest, namely, Phaselus, Hippicos, and Mariamne, and the wall that was on the west side, meaning there to keep a garrison, and that they should be a monument of the prowess of the Romans, who had taken a city so well fortified, as by them it appeared to have been. All the rest of the city they so levelled," answering to our Lord's phrase, lay thee even with the ground, "that they who had not seen it before, would not believe that ever it had been inhabited."

...The destruction of the city and of her inhabitants, clearly foreseen by our Lord in all the circumstances thereof, was a scene so affecting, that it moved his tender soul, and made him weep. It seems the miseries of bitterest enemies had more influence to afflict and melt his soul, than the admiration, the acclamations, and hosannas of his friends to elate him with joy. His weeping was a wonderful instance of his humanity, and is so far from lessening the dignity of his character, that it exalts it infinitely.
(With thanks to Joseph Benson, 1748-1821)

But let every one remember, that though Jesus wept over Jerusalem, he executed awful vengeance upon it. Though he delights not in the death of a sinner, yet he will surely bring to pass his awful threatenings on those who neglect his salvation. The Son of God did not weep vain and causeless tears, nor for a light matter, nor for himself. He knows the value of souls, the weight of guilt, and how low it will press and sink mankind. May he then come and cleanse our hearts by his Spirit, from all that defiles. May sinners, on every side, become attentive to the words of truth and salvation.
(With thanks to Matthew Henry, 1662-1714)

Service suggestions

Introduction

Psalm 139:1-

Opening bracket (choose 3)

Put your sadness away... Today is the day (Meece)
Sing unto the Lord a new song, Ot 37
The feast is ready
We, we are His people, Ot 6

Middle bracket (choose 2)

God on the mountain
Replace it with Your love in my heart
Seekers of Your heart (Tunney)
You are the vine
You can trust Him

Close (choose 1)

God is good all the time
Let the weak say... What the Lord has done in me
There's gonna be a better day (Gaither/Duncan)

There is sunshine in my soul today, H
When the saints go marching out (Duncan)

Music and songs

Songs that mention weeping / tears, "He wept over it" v41

Bringing in the sheaves... Going forth with weeping, HCh 317

Even the darkness is light to Him (Michael Card)

Joy comes in the morning

To everything - turn, turn, turn... a time to weep (Pete Seeger)

Songs about lack of understanding, "If only you had known" v42

I am not skilled to understand, I only know... H

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship, H

I know not why... I know whom, H 651

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, H

Songs about knowing, "If only you had known" v42

Be still and know, 114

Everybody ought to know, HCJ 43

Getting to know you (Rodgers and Hammerstein)

I know who holds tomorrow, CWH 84

They'll know we are Christians, Ot 25

Songs about peace, "what would bring you peace" v42

Go in peace

Let there be peace on earth, HCJ 28

Master the tempest is raging... Peace be still, H 722

Songs about judgement, "the days will come upon" v43

Songs about God's presence, "your visitation from God", v44

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. "If only you had known" (v42) What is one thing you know now, that you wish you had known many years ago?

2. You see someone going down a path that will end in tears. Is it possible to divert them? If 'no', why not? If 'yes', how?
 3. Jesus saw Jerusalem's future (v41). What was His reaction; and what are three things that His tears tell you about Him?
 4. Everything Jesus predicted (v43-44) came true 40 years later. List some advantages (or disadvantages) of taking a long-term view?
 5. Disaster would come "because you did not recognize" (v44). How can we develop helpful, spiritual, ways of engaging in current events?
 6. We have a "visitation from God" (v44) every day. What does it look like? How can we recognise it? How can we make the most of it?
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