

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #244

Passion Week: Sunday...Day of Acclamation and Praise

Jesus' Second Lament Over Jerusalem

LK 19.41-44

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said,

"If you had only known on this day the things that would give you real peace—but they have been hidden from your eyes now.

43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and press in against you on every side. 44 They will smash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone standing on another, because you did not recognize the perfect timing of God's arrival to visit you (in me)."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	At the Mount of Olives, Just Outside the City Gates of Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	A. Sunday: Day of Acclamation and Praise
Title	3. Jesus' Second Lament Over Jerusalem

COMMENT:

The love and grace of Jesus shine brilliantly in today's brief reading. See his glory here and adore him!

This is the second of three times in Luke's gospel that Jesus expressed his deep sorrow over the way Jerusalem--the heart of the nation--rejected his salvation as the Messiah, and would endure total destruction in the future as a result. It is interesting that it was Luke--a Gentile--who picked up on Jesus' heart-rending sorrow over Jerusalem, and recorded them in his gospel (LK 13.33-35; 19.41-44; 23.27-31). There is something very special about our Lord revealed here.

Remember the setting. A huge crowd was joyfully celebrating his Messianic arrival at Jerusalem. They were descending the Mt. Of Olives at this point, which offered a fabulous view of the city directly in front of them. Sunlight was reflecting from the solid gold roof of the temple against a radiant blue sky. Men, women, and children were throwing their outer garments, and palm branches down at the feet of his donkey colt, as they shouted their praise, and danced with joy.

In the midst of all of this exuberant commotion, look at Jesus.

He is not lost in their praise, nor the moment. He is not soaking it all up and beaming with pride in their acclamation of him. In these hours of praise that are all about him, Jesus is heart broken over the fate of the people he loves, so much so that he cannot hold back his bitter tears. Jesus is loving his enemies--the people who

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are about to falsely accuse, mock, humiliate, torture, and finally murder him--when they have put a bounty on his head. He is aching for them, and praying for them while he is receiving the greatest outpouring of human praise in his entire life.

Scenes like this show us the heart of Jesus. He is unspeakably, indescribably beautiful. His love is his glory.

APPLICATION:

Love is never self-seeking, even when it has every right to be. Jesus is our example in this. Love is ever focused on the needs and fulfillment of those we love. Unconditionally. Incessantly.

How has human praise distracted you from truly loving others?

In what ways are you tempted to be self-seeking? How will you follow Jesus in this?