

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #266

Tuesday of Passion Week... Day of Testing and Teaching

Jesus' Public Ministry Ends With His Third Lament Over Jerusalem

MT 23.37-39 (Parallel Text: MK 13.31-35)

37 *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*

38 *"Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.'"* (Ps. 118.26A)

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. 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	The Temple Courts in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	C. Tuesday: Day of Testing and Teaching
Title	16. Jesus' Public Ministry Ends With His Third Lament Over Jerusalem

COMMENT:

Jesus had just delivered his final public message and invitation to salvation of his ministry. He was standing in the Temple Courts in the Temple Treasury area.

After waiting for 30 years to begin his ministry, and having just concluded 40 months of personal and mass evangelism, in which he proclaimed the gospel for over 10,000 hours to every fellow Jew and countless Gentiles, what was on his mind in these moments when he realized he had finished the evangelistic task his Father had given him? It was profound sorrow.

This says so much about our Lord. As always, he was not thinking about himself.

It would have been reasonable to take a moment and reflect on his accomplishments. He had completed the greatest preaching ministry in the history of the world. He had healed more people and proclaimed more content in those 40 months than most preachers could deliver in 400 years. His Words had changed the world forever, and opened up eternity to billions of people. Every word was truth spoken in love, with not a single error, misspoken phrase, or superfluous expression.

It was all perfect. Yet there was no resting on his laurels for Jesus. His concern was for the people that he had ministered to so faithfully.

This was the Lord's third lament over Jerusalem. The first was on his way to Jerusalem three months earlier for the Feast of Dedication (DJN #194, LK.13.31-35). His words were identical to these. The second was on Palm Sunday, at

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the height of his public acclaim by the crowds on the road to Jerusalem. He was so broken hearted that he shed tears then (DJN #240, LK 19.41-44). Now, his third lament had a climactic finality to it.

Jesus spoke the same words in his first and second lament. ***"You will not see me again until you say, "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."***

The differing context created a different meaning for this statement. The first time was at the Feast of Dedication, and Jesus was referring to his entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday when he spoke them. We saw how the crowd used these very words in ecstatically welcoming him as the Messiah on Palm Sunday.

However, that welcome was short-lived. Over the next two days Jesus was rejected by the leadership, and ultimately, the nation. As the apostle John had testified, his own people did not believe in him. Jesus just delivered his final message to them. In three days the crowd would roar for him to be crucified. In this lament Jesus was saying that he would never enter the Temple again on this earth. It would be destroyed. The nation would be scattered to the nations. Rejecting Jesus meant that the kingdom would be entrusted to the Gentiles.

There was no call for revenge on Jesus' part against those who rejected him. He would die praying for their forgiveness. He was not angry that they spurned him and insulted him. His focus was not about what was happening to him at all. Jesus was crushed by the knowledge of what his rejection meant to his rejectors, not to him.

This is the glory and love of God. It is indescribably holy and righteous behavior. It is selfless, unconditional love, that cannot stop loving those who hate us the most. This is the nature and character of the Trinity, revealed in the flesh and blood, and broken heart of Jesus.

There is a note of hope here as well. Jesus' statement means that he will return to Jerusalem at his final coming to the same acclaim as Palm Sunday: ***"Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord."*** However, this time it will not be a temporary welcome. There will be a great revival among the Jewish people at the end of this age, just prior to Jesus' final coming. Many Jews will believe in Jesus as their Messiah, and welcome him to the Holy City. This time, Gentiles from every tribe and tongue and ethnic group on earth will also join in the welcome.

So, the rejection of Jesus during Passion Week will ultimately result in universal praise and worship of him among the Jews, and all the nations at the end of the age. Jesus believed this. Yet his heart will still be crushed by what was going to come upon his beloved people in the meantime.

### APPLICATION:

When we are treated unfairly, and rejected by those who ought to love us, the normal reaction is to hurt over our personal loss. The pain is about what has happened to us. There is nothing wrong with this response. It is a necessary part of the grief process over the loss we have incurred. However, Jesus was different.

Love causes us to also hurt over the losses that others incur by rejecting us. They are hurting themselves by hurting us, too. Followers of Jesus, who love others as he has first loved us, learn to love our enemies enough to hurt for the losses of those who hurt us. This is a true miracle of grace, and the ultimate proof that Jesus lives in us.

*Will you pray for the grace to become a lover like Jesus, who cares more for the pain of those who reject you, than your own losses?*

*Only Jesus can enable you to follow him like this. It is his will to do this work in each of us. Will you seek for him to do this work in you? Who will you start with?*