

Luke
See Jesus
Does Compassion Have An Expiration Date?
Luke 19:41-46

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Luke 19:41-46 “And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, ⁴²saying, ‘Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’ ⁴⁵ And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶saying to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be a house of prayer,” but you have made it a den of robbers.’”

I. Jesus offers compassion beyond comprehension.

Luke 19:1-7 “He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.’ ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received Him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’”

Jesus is far more compassionate than we are with individuals, but He is also far more compassionate with the masses.

There are three occasions when we see Jesus crying in the New Testament:

1. **John 11:35:** Jesus wept just before raising Lazarus from the dead. The Greek word used for “wept” in this verse is “dakruo,” which means “to cry silently.”
2. **Hebrews 5:7-9:** The writer tells us that Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears in the Garden of Gethsemane as He sought His Father asking, if possible, for another way and anticipating the separation He had never known. Jesus is a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
3. **Luke 19:41-42:** Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem as He approached it. The Greek word used for “wept” in this verse is “klaio,” which means “to wail aloud.”

We see Him crying where sin’s consequences are looming, where the ongoing rejection of Christ will bear horrible fruit. Jesus tells us death and destruction is coming — for the Jews who rejected Him as Messiah and for us if we reject Him also.

Luke 19:43-44 “For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Jesus said this on a Sunday, five days before the beginning of Passover. About 40 years later, on a Tuesday of this same week, three days before Passover, the Roman Army began to level Jerusalem. The barricades

around the city were already built so there was no escape. Jesus, God in the flesh, prophesied it and in it we should see application for us as well.

II. Jesus offers warning to your wandering-wondering heart.

There are three distinct warnings in Luke 19 that apply to all of us:

A. A warning to those that grumble against God

You are prone to move away, judge, and reject. He purposes to move toward the sinner. Christian, how you treat others should be impacted by how Jesus has treated you. A trajectory of grace should characterize you.

B. A warning to those that ignore the opportunity to be made right with God

Luke 14:31-33 “Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

“Terms of peace” is the same phrase translated “things that make for peace” in Luke 19:42.

“Time of visitation” is a phrase used in Scripture around two things: 1) Time of Judgment 2) Time of Compassion and Mercy

Jesus came with mercy. He is compassionate to the weak and wayward. He is merciful to the sinner. But rejection has consequences. God will judge those that reject Christ. He is the only term of peace with God.

C. A warning to those that distort God

Luke 19:45-46 “And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶saying to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be a house of prayer,” but you have made it a den of robbers.’”