



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Sermon Title: "Via Dolorosa"
Series Title: "Via"
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann
Luke 19:41-44 (and Luke 19:28-40)
March 24, 2024

Description:

After such a joyous entry into Jerusalem, Jesus probably surprised the crowd by...weeping. It wasn't the first time he wept over the city (Luke 13:34). What saddens him so is that people do not notice his arrival, his coming near (or "visitation"). God still longs to be noticed, and when his approaches go unnoticed, it brings him to tears.

Icebreaker (for groups):

Describe a time when God was clearly with you, but you didn't recognize His presence and purpose until later.

Reflections on the Sermon:

What points in Pastor Bryan's sermon did you find helpful?

Scripture Passages:

Luke 19:28-40 (NIV)

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Luke 19:41-44 (NIV)

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash 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 God's coming to you."



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Reviewing the Scripture:

1. In verses 28-34, what indicates that Jesus is in complete control as He approaches Jerusalem?
2. In verse 35-38, who was present at the procession and what were their positive responses?
3. In verse 39, how did some in the crowd respond negatively?
4. What was Jesus's point in verse 40? What was He claiming about His power and control?
5. In verse 41, how did Jesus react when He saw Jerusalem? Where else in the gospels did He weep?
6. In verse 42, why did He weep? How is His weeping similar to the other occasion when He wept?
7. In verses 43-44, what does Jesus say will happen to Jerusalem? Why will this happen?
8. In this passage, did anyone recognize Jesus' real purpose? If not, what did they think it was?

Going Deeper:

1. How was Jesus' entry into Jerusalem different from His previous public appearances during His ministry years? Why do you think He chose to enter Jerusalem in this way?
2. Why do you think Luke included the incident about the disciples securing a colt for Jesus?
3. In verses 37-38, for what was the crowd praising God? How do their declarations reveal their expectations of Christ? What irony do you see in their words in light of the impending events?
4. In verse 40, by triumphantly riding to Jerusalem, what or who do you think the Pharisees thought He was claiming to be? Why might they have felt offended or threatened?
5. Did the events which Jesus describes in verses 43-44 ever happen? Regarding the temple in Jerusalem, was it ever rebuilt? If so, how was it rebuilt, and who had said they would rebuild it?



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6. What evidence do you see in society today that the gospel message is no longer being recognized for what it is? What do some people say it is? What does the gospel message mean to you?

Personal Questions:

1. What truth(s) about Jesus have you not yet recognized even though you follow Him?
2. What thing(s) do you want people to recognize in and about you? How do those things compare with what God recognizes about you?
3. Which part(s) of you might Jesus be weeping over that you need to give to Him to conquer and care for?
4. How has your recognition of what is important to you changed since becoming a follower of Christ? What do you think God has noticed about you since you believed?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to save us from our sins. Without recognizing Him as our personal Savior, we are not worthy to stand in Your presence. You are a compassionate God who longs to be noticed, and You weep when we act as though You are not near us. Lord Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to notice Your presence in our lives each day. Help us recognize more clearly that You are our Conquering King who has defeated death so we may live with You forever. Blessed are You, Jesus, who came to us in the name of the Lord. Amen!