

Sermon Discussion

10 April 2022

Read Luke 15:14-24; Luke 19:28-40

Dig Deeper

Luke did not record Jesus' actual entrance into the city of Jerusalem. He stressed **Jesus'** **approach** to Jerusalem and **His lamentation** over it (v. 41-44). This presentation has the effect of eliminating the triumphant celebration of Jesus' coming and replacing it with sadness over Jesus' rejection.

Luke located what happened for his readers' benefit. Probably Mark and Luke mentioned **Bethany** because it was a better-known town than **Bethphage**...though Bethany was slightly farther east. Bethphage was "the village opposite" or "ahead" (*Matthew 21:1*).

The mention of Mt. Olivet (**literally olive orchard**) recalls the prophecy of Messiah's coming there (*Zechariah 14:4*). The preparations to enter Jerusalem riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey, were to fulfil Zechariah 9:9-10. When a royal or sacred person rode on such an animal, its owners did not normally put it to customary use from then on.

This is the only place in the Gospels beside John 11:35 where we read that **Jesus wept** (wailed). His compassion is something Luke pointed out frequently. The fate of sinners who reject God's grace broke Jesus' heart. Jeremiah also wept over the fate of Jerusalem (*see Jeremiah 8:18-22; 15:5*). Jesus saw the city in the light of its rejection of His gracious offer of salvation. He foresaw it visited in judgment later since it had rejected His peaceful visit.

1. What word or short phrase would you use to describe the scene in Luke 19:37-40, as seen... from the perspective of the disciples? from the perspective of the crowd? from the perspective of the Pharisees? from Jesus's perspective?
2. How do you understand Jesus's weeping in v. 41? What moves him to tears?
3. In the sermon, the account of Palm Sunday was connected to the Parable of the Prodigal Son through the lens of repentance. How would you define repentance? What is the purpose of repentance? What does repentance look like?
4. We read of the father's joy upon seeing his repentant son, and observed that "*In the way of Jesus, repentance leads to celebration*. That's what the repentance and the forgiveness of God does...it restores us. At what point or in what circumstances in your life have you been most aware of your need for restoration?
5. How has God worked through repentance to bring about restoration and redemption in your own life or in the lives of those you love

Application & Prayer

- Consider not only our individual need for repentance, but also our need to repent collectively as a church. What are some of the ways that we as a church might sometimes be blind to our collective need for repentance and forgiveness?
- How might “fasting from complaining or ungratefulness” help us to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly?
- Pray Psalm 51. If you are in a group, do it together dividing up the stanzas among the members.