THE KING WHO WEPT

Luke 19:41&42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 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.”

Claiming to be King

Luke 19:28-31 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “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. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Luke 19:32-36 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “The Lord needs it.” They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

Luke 19:37&38 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: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Luke 19:39&40 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Weeping over Jerusalem

Luke 19:41&42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 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.”

John 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

John 18:36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Isaiah 57:20&21 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 59:6b-8 Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. They pursue evil schemes; acts of violence mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.

What Lies Did the Jews Believe on Palm Sunday?

That they were right with God because of who they were and outward ritual: Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.”

Jeremiah 7:2b-4 “Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through theses gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!’ ”

Jeremiah 7:11 “Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! Declares the LORD.”

Luke 19:45&46 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. “It is written,” he said to them, “ ‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it a ‘den of robbers.’ ”

What Lies Do Americans Tend to Believe?

We tend to believe that we are a Christian nation because of our Christian heritage and because we put “In God We Trust” on our money and say, “One Nation, under God,” when we recite the pledge of allegiance, and because most Americans would identify themselves as Christians and because 40% of Americans will say to pollsters they go to church regularly (but only 16% did pre-covid).

That pre-born babies are somehow not human beings. (Two states have now had legislation introduced that would protect parents from being charged with a crime for the perinatal death of an infant.

That encouraging children and teenagers to investigate life styles that have suicide rates as much as twenty times higher than average is somehow compassionate.

What Did Jesus Say Was Going to Happen to Jerusalem?

Luke 19:43&44 “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. They will dash you to the ground, you and your 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.”

Jerusalem was besieged in 70 AD, when the Temple was destroyed, and again in 134 AD, when the walls were torn down.

Jesus’ Attitude Toward Jerusalem Then and Toward Us Now

Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.

Luke 13:34 “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.

Things to Think About

Jesus deliberately fulfilled Zechariah 9:9 and in doing so claimed to be the King of the Jews.

The crowds wanted a king to drive out the Romans, but they were not nearly as interested in having a Savior who would forgive their sins.

We as Americans are far more like the crowds on Palm Sunday than we should be: We tend to think changing who is in power will fix our problems and we tend to think that because of our heritage, and our public acknowledgements of God and people going to church that God will not judge the obvious sin in our midst.

The Jews on Palm Sunday were wrong about that, and we probably are also.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem and longed for its people to come to Him. We should be weeping over America and longing for people to come to Christ.