

The things that make for peace

1. Intro:

Morning all, I want to cover Luke 19:41-44 but to give some context we will touch on vs 36-40 first.

Luke 19:36-40 is the account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." With the praises of the people ringing in His ears, Jesus wept...

2. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem:

Luke 19:41-44

41 As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.

A. Jesus wept over the City: Jesus knew what was in store for Jerusalem and wept over the City (Forty years later the prophecy came true and the Roman army besieged Jerusalem, conquered it, and levelled the temple to the ground.). I like how someone put it... *He was weeping over the tragedy of a lost opportunity*. It reminds me of the prayer; "Lord break our hearts for the things that breaks yours."

In the Book of Luke we read that laments over Jerusalem;

Luke 13:34, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you would not!"

The Mercy of God that triumphs over judgement, was there for Jerusalem but they rejected God's mercy.

B. The terms of Peace: verse 42 “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”

Jerusalem means City of Peace, but it was far from living out its name.

We read in the Psalms:

Psalm 81:13 “If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways, ¹⁴ how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

and in **Isaiah; 48:18** ¹⁸ If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.

Jerusalem knew the terms of Peace but rejected them.

The Peace Jesus spoke of was a peace that came through believing in Him, **Romans 5:1** puts it like this; “*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Just as Jesus wanted Jerusalem to know His peace, so He invites us to know His peace today. **John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”

This peace we experience in everyday life, it’s a peace we have in the middle of a storm, It’s the peace we experience in times of crises. It’s a supernatural peace, **Philippians 4v7** describes it like this; “⁷ And the peace of God, *which surpasses all understanding*, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I love this quote by CS Lewis: Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

C. The time of visitation:

Luke 19:43 Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, ***because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.***

The Bible contains more than 300 prophecies about Jesus alone... yet, He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. [John 1:11].

The book of **John says in chapter 1v14** That “the Word became flesh and dwelt among them”, in the Message it says “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

He moved into the neighbourhood but many did not recognise Him, many did not see Jesus as the incarnation of God... God was visiting their neighbourhood!

In Matthew 16v13-16 ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

His question was, “Who do you say that I am?” in other words “do you recognise Me?”

Jerusalem did not recognise their time of visitation from God, at one moment they were praising Jesus and later they were crying, “crucify him”. Jesus looked over the City and wept.

Today Jesus asks each one of us, “Who do you say I am?”. If you want to know and recognise Jesus today, or you’ve grown distant from Him, invite Him into your life, invite Jesus to come and take control.

D. Conclusion:

In conclusion I leave this with you: John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”

So, may ² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. Jude 1v2

Prayer: Lord break our hearts for the things that breaks yours, let us recognise the need for your Son Jesus in our lives and in our neighbourhoods. Lord thank You that your Mercy triumphs over judgement.

Amen