

“Jesus Wept” by E A Terry Delivered 04 05 20
Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12; Philippians 2: 5 - 11; **Luke 19: 28 – 44 (Sermon)**

Jesus’ fame had spread throughout all of Judah.

The people were amazed at Jesus’ teachings and everybody was talking about the miracles Jesus performed.

John 12:12-13 tells us that when the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast they went out to meet Him.

As Jesus approached Jerusalem the crowds waved palm branches, which was a sign of Jewish nationalism.

And verse 37 in our lesson from Luke we read the crowd placed their garments on the road symbolizing their submission to their king and **“the whole crowd began to joyfully praise God in a loud voice 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!’”**

The people were ecstatic about Jesus being their king.

The Gospel according to Luke is chronological so we need to remember that the Parable of the 10 Talents immediately precedes the account of Jesus’ Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem is more like the nobleman **going away** to receive a kingdom (v. 12) rather than the nobleman **returning and confirming** his newly acquired kingly authority.

So when Jesus rode a colt into Jerusalem Jesus was telling the people *“This is not the time for my kingdom to come on earth. You rejected my kingdom and now you will have to wait.”*

On several occasions Jesus had told His disciples that He must suffer and die but that He would return.

But Jesus’ disciples did not want to hear about Jesus suffering and dying before He would establish His earthly kingdom.

In times of war the king would ride a horse but in peace times a king would ride a colt.

So Jesus riding on a colt into Jerusalem was a public declaration that Jesus was a king coming in peace.

Jesus never denied that He was their king so that is why Jesus did not tell the people to stop cheering when the Pharisees told Him to. (Luke 19:29)

But in this passage Jesus was telling His followers **“I will return later to claim my rightful throne on earth.”**

There were several reasons why the crowd was cheering as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

First and foremost, the crowd was cheering and shouting **“Hosanna blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord** because the people wanted Jesus to overthrow the Roman government and Jesus to be their earthly king.

The word **“hosanna”** means **“save us we pray”**.

They were looking for a Messiah to come and sit on the throne of David and for Israel to be a powerful independent nation again like the Old Testament prophets had foretold.

Other people followed Jesus and were cheering for personal gain.

They wanted Jesus to feed their physical appetites.

In John 6 we read that when Jesus perceived that they would seek to make Him king by force He withdrew from them.

The crowd searched for Jesus and when they found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, ***“Rabbi, when did you come here?”***

Jesus answered them, ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”*** (John 6:15)

And still other people followed Jesus and were cheering out of curiosity.

They were hoping to see Jesus perform some great miracle.

This morning we all need to ask ourselves why we came here today.

Are you seeking physical blessings or spiritual blessings?

Do you want Jesus to change your circumstances or to change you?

This was a joyous occasion Jesus riding on a colt, people waving leafy branches, throwing their coats on the road ahead of Him, and shouting ***“Hosanna”*** and ***“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”***.

This parade was truly a hero's welcome.

But just as the excitement and the celebration reached a great crescendo in verse 41 we read; ***“Jesus wept”***.

At possibly the greatest celebration Jesus experienced on earth Jesus wept.

The word translated ***“wept”*** means much more than tears.

The word used here suggests a heavy sobbing with great emotion.

What a contrast!

The crowd shouting, clapping their hands, and rejoicing over the possibility of Jesus being their king and Jesus is crying His eyes out.

We have to wonder if the crowd was so wrapped up in their celebration that they did not notice the person the celebration was for.

Jesus wept as He looked at the crowd because Jesus saw the emptiness in their lives.

These people had heard Jesus' messages of love and peace but they wanted Jesus to use force to overthrow the Roman government.

These people only wanted a king to meet their physical needs.

They did not understand the purpose of Jesus' coming to earth.

They had eyes but they did not see.

They had ears but they did not hear.

They missed the whole point of the Jesus' message.

This crowd did not grasp the fact that Jesus came to save their souls.

Jesus came to give His people abundant life filled with love, peace, joy, and hope but they rejected Jesus.

Jesus wept because they did not recognize Him as their Messiah.

Jesus wept because the Jewish people did not accept their mission.

God choose the Jewish people and blessed the Jews so they would be a living example of His love, His forgiveness, His power, and His ability to provide and protect His people.

Jesus came to show us what it means to love and forgive.

Jesus came to show us "*a more excellent way*".

Jesus said, "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*"

Jesus wanted His followers to show Rome the power of love.

Jesus wept because the Jewish people failed in their God given mission.

Jesus wept because He knew the consequences of His people rejecting His way of life.

Jesus knew what would happen to Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Jesus saw the Temple destroyed. Jesus saw the city of Jerusalem in ruins; Jesus saw the hundreds of thousands of Jewish people who were killed.

According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, over one million Jews were killed and blood flowed down the Temple steps like water.

These things happened because the Jewish people refused to believe God would judge His people.

Jesus wept as He looked at the religious leaders who were jealous of His popularity.

These religious leaders were more concerned about their position than they were about their God given mission of spiritual leadership and service.

Their outward form of religion was phony because their hearts were filled with hate and pride.

They were called to lead the people to God not to turn the people against God.

Jesus wept as He looked over the crowd because He saw some people who were still searching, they wanted to believe Jesus was the Messiah but they had not taken that next step of commitment; making Jesus their personal savior.

This morning as we celebrate the birth, death, and resurrection of King Jesus we all need to ask ourselves what are **our** expectations of Jesus.

Do we want Jesus to change our circumstances or do we want Jesus to change our hearts?

Jesus wept because as He listened to the people's hosannas, He knew these same voices would soon cry, "**Crucify Him!**"

Their joyous cheers turned against Jesus when it became apparent Jesus would not conquer by force.

These people wanted Jesus to do what they wanted, how they wanted it, and when they wanted it!

Jesus refused to be the kind of king they wanted.

In 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 is my kingdom from another place.”***

The hopes of these people were dashed and their cheering quickly turned to criticizing, mocking, and rejection because Jesus was not the type of Messiah they wanted.

Sadly, people have not changed much in 2000 years.

We want a messiah who meets our physical needs and gives us peace and prosperity.

The sad part is that people will follow anyone who promises to do what they want that person to do.

Jesus wept for His people because they refused to recognize who Jesus was, they refused to accept Jesus' way of life, they refused Jesus' plan for their life, and they refused to believe God would judge them for their sinful attitudes and their sinful acts because they were "*God's chosen people*".

But before we criticize the people in Jesus' day, we need to examine ourselves.

You see we are a lot like the people on the road to Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.

We want Jesus to change our circumstances rather than changing our hearts.

God's word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves.

When you experience trials, suffer through hardships and sickness, do you focus on your circumstances or do you focus on Jesus who is the only person who can deliver you?

You see, when you focus on your circumstances your prayers are, *“Lord deliver me, fight for me, heal me,”* instead of, *“Lord use this circumstance to mold me, to strengthen me, and to use me.”*

In John 16:33 Jesus said, ***“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.”***

When Jesus is truly our Lord, we will have peace even in times of tribulation.

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“Is Jesus my Lord all the time or only as long as Jesus does what I want Him to do for me?”*

Do we want to follow Jesus on our terms or Jesus’ terms?

You see it is easy to cheer when things go our way, when Jesus heals us, when Jesus does what we want, when Jesus rises to our cause.

Does your excitement about Jesus end and your words of praise fade when you are in trouble?

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking: *“Am I like that crowd who turned away from Jesus because Jesus has not done what I thought Jesus should have done for me?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“was my singing, clapping, and dancing this morning for me or was it for Jesus?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“am I like the Jewish religious leaders who tried to get Jesus out of their life. Or have I made Jesus the center of my life?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“am I like Pilate who refused to make a decision for Jesus”. Or have I asked Jesus to be my savior and made Jesus The Lord of my life?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“am I demonstrating the power of love and forgiveness when I have being criticized and wrongly accused?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“am I like Jesus by doing my part in accomplishing my heavenly Father’s will? Is obeying my heavenly Father my number one priority?”*

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine ourselves by asking *“am I living a life that is pleasing to The Lord?”*

When Jesus looks at us, does Jesus see people who are afraid of tomorrow, people who are worried about their finances and / or their health?

Is Jesus weeping over us because He knows what is in our hearts?

Is Jesus weeping over us because He knows what is in our future?

When Jesus looks at us does He see people who only know about Him or does Jesus see people who know Him personally as their Lord and Savior?

Everybody wants to go to heaven.

In fact, I have never met anyone who stated that they want to go to hell.

But sadly, many people reject Jesus and Jesus' way of life or they neglect to ask Jesus to save them and make Jesus The Lord of their life.

The Bible is crystal clear about the result of all those that reject or neglect to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior.

Jesus loves each of us and Jesus weeps over every person who is lost and doomed to spend eternity in hell.

Jesus weeps over every person who is not living the way Jesus taught.

Jesus is counting on each one of us to be a living example of His love, His forgiveness, and His power.

We are to show the world that Jesus provides, protects, and blesses His people.

When Jesus looks at you this morning is Jesus in tears or is Jesus saying well done my good and faithful servant?"

AMEN