



ALL SAINTS

PRESBYTERIAN

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Triumphal Tears” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | April 14, 2019

#### **Luke 19:41-44**

“And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

#### **John 12:13**

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

#### **Luke 9:22**

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised”

#### **Hebrews 12:22**

“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

#### **Luke 9:51**

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

#### **Mark 8:34-38**

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels will save it.”

#### **Intro Question**

This final Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, we examine Luke’s account of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. How the crowds looked in this final week of Jesus life does not match their readiness for what was to come. Hosanna. Joy. (John 12:13). No one imagined how the week would end based on how it began - except for Jesus. He knew. (Luke 9:22). In Luke 19:41, we get a hint of this dissonance. Jesus falls to the ground and weeps. Why does He weep at this, His triumphal entry?

#### **Background**

To understand the triumphal entrance we must understand the parable he teaches just prior. Jesus tells a parable of himself as a nobleman going away to receive a kingdom. The kingdom is the very place he leaves and will come back to rule over. While he’s gone, he gives his servants money and expects they will earn a profit to demonstrate their trustworthiness as his servants. When he returns as the king, he will evaluate what his servants have done. The parable explains three groups of servants: 1) those who did what they were supposed to while he was gone, 2) those who didn’t do what they were supposed to, 3) and those who hate him. Those who did what they were supposed to were rewarded. Those who did not do what they were supposed to were rejected. Those who hated him were destroyed.

Jesus is a king who weeps because loss is the primary emphasis in Luke’s version of the triumphal entry. Loss of the terms of peace He has come to bring to a city that will be destroyed in only 40 more years. Reflecting on this parable and verse 41, What is it we most fear to lose? What is it that we will do anything to protect?

Whatever you believe is the ultimate measure of your personal self worth, social value or respected by name, that is what your god is and what you worship. Jesus is our only hope and we are not alone in our tears. Verse 41, Jesus weeps. Everyone else is happy. He anticipates what is happening. The Gospel writers capture this. Jesus’ life was and is transformative because of death. You can’t have Palm Sunday without the tears and the loss that follows on Friday. You can’t have Easter Sunday without the cross on Friday (Luke 9:51). This is all part of the distinct narrative woven through each account of the Gospels. The new life that we inherit comes and moves through the cross and involves self-denial and losing our own life (Mark 8:34-38). Jesus weeps here for all the people in a few days that will reject Him. He weeps for the peace they will reject also. They are tears of mercy. Jerusalem was chosen as God’s people so they may be a light to all the nations around them. Instead they were not. He weeps not for Himself but for his people.

The great misunderstanding was that he would enter Jerusalem and by his mighty works, take his rightful throne and make Israel free from Rome. Jesus would take His throne but it would be through voluntary suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus saw all of this coming - the sin, the rebellion and the blindness (Hebrews 12:22). The effect on us should be to admire Christ, treasure Him above all, worship Him as our merciful sovereign Savior. Easter cost God everything and cost us nothing. It is free to us. Savor the peace found on the cross.

#### **Discuss:**

1. How do you respond to reading about Jesus weeping? Do you feel those tears?
2. Do you weep for others? What is tenderly moving you today?
3. Are there moments in your life drawing you toward suffering or denying yourself in short run and multiplying joy in long run?
5. How are you managing that which is entrusted to you while Jesus is away?
6. Are you too familiar with the contemporary culture of Easter (i.e. cards, bunnies, eggs, dress up, etc.) that you don’t let it affect your own heart/emotions anymore?

#### **Conclusion/Application**

Heavenly Father, O that we would see and savor the beauty of Christ, His Palm Sunday tears of sovereign joy and triumph. As we admire and worship, we would be changed and become more tenderly moved, self denying, need-meeting, repentant people. Amen.

By: Blake Thompson

