



Jesus' Love for Jerusalem

Matthew 23:37–39

Introduction: The New Testament records that Jesus wept on _____ occasions. Do you know where those three places are found?

The heading in my Bible (which is not inspired) reads: **Jesus _____ over Jerusalem.**

As Charles Spurgeon once said, “Christ’s tears over Jerusalem are the tears of the _____ Savior. They are the weeping of divine love defeated by human unbelief.”

1. Because They _____ God’s Messengers – 2337a

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!”

The repetition of “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem*” shows the deep _____ of Jesus for the city of Jerusalem – for all its inhabitants.

The words of David, and the words of Jesus for Jerusalem were a _____ of grief and love combined for those who rejected them. Absalom was in rebellion against his father. Jerusalem had _____ Jesus Christ.

Jesus also speaks of the way in which Jerusalem responded to the _____ God had sent to them – **they killed them.**

Acts 7:52 -“Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers.”

Hebrews 11:37 - “They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—”

Do you know what I find interesting is that the word “kills” in this verse is in the _____ tense, which means, this is what they were doing right now.

2. Because He Longed to _____ Them – 23:37b

“How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

You have got to love the two words, “How _____ ...” Jerusalem was on Jesus’ heart all the time. He loved the city of Jerusalem!

In this verse you can almost feel the heart of Jesus. He says, *I wanted...*

The word “wanted” as a verb (thelō) expresses _____ and earnest desire.

to gather your children together,

Jesus viewed the people of Jerusalem as _____.

You see, our children are the _____ of our eyes! So, Israel was to God! (Deuteronomy 32:10).

Then Jesus says, *as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,*

Folks, there is no greater _____ for any one of us than to be under the wings of a loving God. There we are protected and safe!

But the _____ lies in the words that follow next... *you were not willing.*

3. Because their _____ Was Certain – 23:38

“See! Your house is left to you desolate.”

The word “_____” is like the word “Woe” that we looked at in the last chapter. It too is an interjection. It is a standalone word. Basically, Jesus is saying, “Look!” or “behold!” It’s a sharp _____ getter, not just casual observation.

Jesus wants them to “See” what they have done.

One author wrote, “Rejection paved the pathway to _____.”

Jesus said, *Your house is left to you desolate.*

E.W. Bullinger writes, “Very emphatic. At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, it was “*My Father’s house*” (John 2:16); but at the end, after His rejection it was “_____ house”.

This prophecy was fulfilled in A.D. _____ when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple (Something like 40 years after Jesus spoke these words).

4. Because _____ Will Be Delayed – 23:39

“For I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

For I say to you

Jesus is doing the speaking here. He has a message to _____ and its inhabitants.

you shall see Me no more

In Greek these words are emphatic— it means, “by _____ means,” “certainly not,” or “never.” And the word “Me” in this verse is speaking of Jesus Himself.

So, the literal force of the phrase is: “*You will by no means _____ Me...*” It conveys absolute exclusion until the stated condition is met, which is,

till you say,

And what will the Jew say before they see Jesus again? They will cry out like others did on the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:9). They will say,

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Romans 11:26 - “*All Israel will be saved.*”

Philippians 2:9-11 – *9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Conclusion: So, what is the take home truths for us today?

1. God loves you so much that He will send you _____ – don’t reject His love, and don’t reject his messengers.
2. God loves you so much that He wants to bring you under His _____ (arms), to protect you, and provide security for you. Let Him!
3. God loves you so much that He will always bring _____ upon rejection and rebellion. Tribulation often turns people back to God.
4. God loves you so much that He will not _____ up on you. Why? Because God desires that all men be saved (2 Timothy 2:3-4).