

# Matthew 23:37-39

## “The King’s Sorrow”

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thesis: Jesus sorrow reveals love for lost but also justice for rejection. His example teaches us to have compassionate sorrow for lost. Also process emotions in healthy and holy way that doesn’t lead to sin but rather to love God & neighbors.

**subject: Jesus’ sorrow for Jerusalem**

**object: Honor Christ in sorrow**

#### **I. Jesus’ sorrow is rooted in compassion (v.37-38)**

- consider context: after addressing problems of hypocrisy w/ Jewish religious leaders + eternal consequence of their rejection, Jesus mourns for Jerusalem
- Jesus’ sorrow- result of His love
- imagery of mother hen *gathering* her offspring
- *Gathering*- bringing together to protect, provide, nurture
- implies a deep and self-sacrificial love (love of a parent)
- Jesus saddened by rejection of that perfect love
- What do we see from Jesus’ sorrow?

#### **A. Jesus’ compassionate sorrow reveals God’s heart (v.37)**

- Jesus’ humanity and divinity at same moment- He is experiencing sadness, a very “human” emotion, however the reason for His sadness is a divine desire for the salvation of God’s chosen people, the Israelites-
- Jesus’ heart perfectly aligned w/ Father
- Two things we discover about God’s heart from Jesus’ sorrow;

#### **1. Jesus response was due to the actions of people**

- God responds to the attitudes and actions of people
- Mark 6:7; Luke 7:9- Jesus “marvels”; Eph 4:30- warns against “grieving” Holy Spirit
- Crazy thought: I have the ability to bring delight or grief to the Lord
- We shouldn’t be ignorant- God is grieved or delighted depending on what’s in our hearts and how that is reflected in our actions
- contrast- attitudes and actions that glorify Him vs. those that don’t- are you grieving God or glorifying Him?

#### **2. Jesus is sorrowful for the destruction of the lost**

- Jesus not only sad because His love was rejected, but because now Israel will face consequence of that rejection for all eternity
- God does not desire or delight in the destruction of the wicked; but is just and allows it;
- **“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” 2 Peter 3:9**

- The important thing to see here- God's heart is that those who are lost would come to know him- our hearts should be aligned as Jesus' was-
- does it cause sadness or at least bother you to see lost world around you?

## **II. Jesus sorrow does not lead to sin (v.37-38)**

- this may seem like an obvious one, but let's actually stop and look at Jesus' example
- sorrow and pain are powerful emotions that so often can lead people away from God, into sin & allow the enemy to gain a foothold in the life of a believer
- what do we see in Jesus' example?

### **B. compassion without compromise**

- Despite mourning and sadness over Israel's rejection of Him, Jesus allows eternal consequences of their sin to stand
- Jesus makes no exception for those who reject Him and remain in their sin, because, as we mentioned before, He is perfectly loving but also perfectly just
- v.37 tells us that Jerusalem was a city that "killed prophets and stoned those sent to her"- in other words they had heard the Gospel message over and over again but chose to remain in rebellion rather than repent and believe
- as a result, v.38 tells us that her house was left "desolate"
- Greek word for desolate "*eremos*" means abandoned- carries the idea that God withdraws His blessing, glory and presence from those who continually reject Him
- God gives opportunity after opportunity to receive Him because He desires everyone to come to Him, but in the end He will not compromise on the wages of sin.

### **B. processing emotions in a healthy and holy way**

- Jesus is able to experience/ display emotion in a way that does not compromise God's standard or lead to sin
- Matter of fact, Jesus displayed many emotions throughout His life & ministry
- It doesn't appear from Scripture that experiencing or even displaying certain emotions is wrong- Eph. 4:26, Paul instructs us to be angry but not to sin
- The problem is often that either our hearts are misaligned with God's (experience emotions for wrong reasons) or we choose to sin as a response to the emotion we are feeling rather than responding in a way which glorifies God (personal examples with engagement and wedding planning)
- idolatry of authenticity in our culture
- ***What are some ways we can process our emotions in a healthy, holy, God-glorifying way?***

## **III. Jesus sorrow moves Him to action (v.39)**

- Jesus' sorrow moved Him to action, how do we see this?

### **C. God will finish the work He began in Israel and in the Church (Ro 11:23-26; Phil 1:6)**

- Jesus quoting from Psalm 118- a messianic psalm which was quoted on Palm Sunday & now Jesus is pointing to a day even further in the future when He will return and the Jews will recognize Him for who He is
- We see in Ro 11:23-26 that God is not finished with Israel but rather, He will use the Church as His means to spread the Gospel so many will be saved including a remnant of believing Jews.

- Despite His rejection at the hands of Israel, God never gives up on His grand plan of Redemption- Jesus still went to the Cross and we can still be 100 percent confident that He will consummate His work as He promised He would at the end of the age
- God's character is such that He finishes the good work He starts (Philippians 1:6)

**B. God's finished work and promised fulfillment of His plan should lead us to love Him and our neighbors**

- As church, we get to join God in His redemptive work
- Sense of urgency to begin truly loving God and neighbors as eternity hangs in balance