

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TO TEARFUL ENTRY" | LUKE 19:41 – LUKE 20:8 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

When was the last time you saw someone cry in public? What did that show about that person?

"When God Cried" (Luke 19: 41-44)

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem as he shares about the future destruction to the city because the people reject Him. **What does that show about Jesus? How should Christ followers react to the lost in their communities?**

"Cleansing the Temple" (Luke 19: 45-48)

Jesus goes to the temple and clears out all the merchants operating there who were getting in the way of worship. **What are things that get in the way of worship in our society and churches today?**

"Authority" (Luke 20: 1-8)

Some religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority and Jesus responds with a question that puts them on the defensive. **What are questions people ask today about Jesus? What types of questions can Christ followers respond with to make people think?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shows passion for worship in both how he cries over the lost and how he drives out corruption in the temple. He wants people to come to Him, but many resist His authority. In each situation He responds in a way that shows His love for God. **How have you shown passion for God lately? Are there areas of your life that need to give Jesus control so you can better worship Him? Pray that God would give you wisdom and courage to respond in each situation in ways that honor Him.**

From Triumphal Entry to Tearful Entry

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-9 Dan: C@R. REAL. Cmp Alandale. Easter/CW. Wmns Retreat. Fresh Faith.
- B. Slide10 Prayer for Rohingya. We have a great opportunity to be praying for the Rohingya as **Ramadan** approaches (*Ramadan*, a month of *fasting, prayer, reflection & community* for Muslims).
1. We have a 30 day prayer guide that you can download. This year the prayer points will lead you to pray for **countries** where Rohingya live, for Rohingya **believers**, and **different ministries** (translation, radio, media). We hope this guide will *fuel your prayers* and *inspire you* to continue praying for the Rohingya every day. You can find the prayer guide on our **Missions Page** online. (App/Web)
- C. Slide11a Prayer: Father, Your Son Jesus was *a man a sorrows, and acquainted with grief*. And we know this wasn't mere *emotionalism or shallow sentimentality* – but a reminder **You care and that You carry** our burdens.

II. Intro: From Triumphal Entry to Tearful Entry

- A. Our **Israel trip** was fantastic. (Team, weather, sites, learning, new discoveries)
- B. TY to *Jason Hohnberger* last week (turning water into wine). And *Dan* starting off our **last section** of Dr. Luke.
1. Slide11b Lukes Gospel broken down: Lk.1&2 = 30 yrs of Jesus' life.
Lk.3 - 19:27 = 3 yrs of Jesus' life. And Lk.19:28 - 24:53 = 1 week of Jesus' life. [so 25% deals with His last week before He died]
- C. From **Triumphal** entry to **Tearful** entry. There are **3 times** in Scripture that Jesus **wept**: John 11:35 (Mary/Bethany over Laz). Luke 19:41 (here over Jer). Hebrews 5:7 (*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers & supplications, w/loud cries & tears*)
1. **Each** is near the end of His life. **Each** reveals *what matters most* to our **loving God**. His tears are a reminder that *He loves sinners and cares for every soul*.

III. Slide12 **WHEN GOD CRIED (41-44)** *READ*

A. **Tears** (41-43)

B. He drew near and saw the city - **What** was Jesus looking for? **What** did He desire to see? [we were just here] **Slide13**

1. He was looking for **the lost** - I've come to seek & save the lost. 19:10
2. He's looking for **worshippers** - The Father is seeking such to **worship Him**. Jn.4:23
3. He's looking for **fruit** in our lives - Look, for three years now I have come **seeking fruit** on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. 13:7
4. He's looking for **faithful servants** - I looked for a man among them who would **build up the wall** and **stand before me in the gap** on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

a) What does Jesus see today when He looks at **our** city? (your city)

C. **Why Are You Weeping, Jesus?** - Jesus wept *violently* for the people of Jerusalem.

1. **Not for** Himself, **not for** the cross that awaited Him; **but for** the fate that would come upon *that city*.
2. **Rather than** the joyful shouts and praises that resounded all around Jesus presently, **instead He heard** the *screams, the cries, the shrieks & groans* of the *men, women, & children* who would **die** in that city, as He had prophesied.

a) The Roman General **Titus** would invade in 70 AD, leveling the city, destroying its glorious temple, & brutalize its rebellious people.

D. **Imagine** Angels seeing their God *cry over* rebellious humans?

E. **Imagine** seeing in advance, the destruction of a whole city ... YOUR city?

F. **Slide14 Imagine** what the city **was & is now?** *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, The city of the great King. God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge.* Ps.48:1-3

1. Now the **city is infected**; the **Temple polluted** (no glory, no understanding of their feasts); the **people contaminated** (w/sin, & indifference).

G. **Imagine** what the city **could have become** (also, your life).

1. They say **love** is blind **but Divine love** is *farseeing*. [ie. the *potentiality* of people]

H. **Slide15a Prediction** (43,44)

I. **Wait, you and your children, that's harsh! Oh?**

1. In Mt.27:25 The rulers, the priests, **and the people** united in accepting responsibility for the death of Christ, saying, ***Let his blood be on us and on our children.***

a) Then almost 40 years later, on this very spot, judgment was pronounced against the citizens of Jerusalem. Of the **3,600 victims** of the governor's fury, not a few were scourged and crucified. **The house of Annas** was destroyed some years later. **Caiaphas** had been deposed 1 year after the crucifixion. **And Pilate** was soon after banished to Gaul **and there died in suicide**.

2. When Jerusalem fell, her wretched citizens were *crucified* around her walls until, in the historian's grim language, ***"space was wanting for the crosses, and crosses for the bodies."*** The horrors of the siege of Jerusalem are unparalleled in history.

a) They missed the time of **their visit**. They wasted **their opportunity**.

J. **Slide15b They missed 4 things:** (don't miss these)

1. **Your day** – your opportunity/time is brief.
2. **Your peace** – your reconciliation w/God.
3. **Your eyes** – your life is dependent on ***looking to Jesus***.
4. **Your visitation** – your visit with the Savior seeking to save you.

a) Be very clear, **today** is ***"your day"***!

K. If you don't *know* Jesus, you **can reject** him, **but know this ...** you'll **reject** Him by walking through **His tears!**

1. When Jesus looks at **lostness**, He does so with *profound sadness*.
2. His 1st reaction is **not anger**, **but** seeing them through **tears**. *We need to mimic this trait.*

L. Looking at you & me (pre-salvation), He would've wept.

IV. Slide16a **CLEANSING THE TEMPLE (45-48) READ**

A. Slide16b *The trouble w/righteous anger is that it is so much easier to be **angry than righteous**. But it is possible to be both.*

B. Slide17 *Explain Map. The issue was **where** they set up. Their **flea market** was in **The Court of the Gentiles**. Often we read that the fence of separation was to **keep them out**, **but** they were actually **invited to come and pray** up to that point.*

1. This is where Jesus did His public teaching (not in the temple).
 - a) According to **Josephus** there was a need for an estimated **255,600 lambs** at **Passover** in ad 66. **Big business**. Problems arose when **abuses developed** and **business** became more important than **worship**.
 - b) This was *the County Fair & the Stock Exchange all rolled into one*.
2. He challenged **the entire banking system** of Jerusalem. By taking up all of the property on the temple now with their animal market **it denied access to the Gentiles**. [the 1 place God designed for Gentile evang, rendered ineffective]

C. **Connect** *purging the temple* with ... *purging our hearts* on the cross.

D. (47,48) For years, **tension** was building, leading to the cross. **2 groups**: (same today) a group seeking to **destroy** Him, & a group **hanging on** His words.

1. Henry Nouwen said, *In going to Jerusalem Jesus is asking, **Will you be my disciple or will you be my executioner?*** [you have to do something w/Jesus]

V. Slide18a **AUTHORITY (20:1-8) READ**

A. **Debates are fun** *if* the topics are **insignificant**. *Feel free to answer out loud.*

1. Which is better summer or winter? Which is better Chick-fil-A or In-n-Out? What's the proper way to pronounce GIF (Jif or gif)? Should toilet paper hang under or over? Which is better the American accent or the British accent? (it's the only thing that they have on us). Which is worse a quiet introvert or a loud extrovert? Would you give up 3 fingers for \$1 million? Last one, does pineapple belong on pizza?
 2. So some topics are **fun**, **but** others demand **careful thought**. Why? Because of the *ramifications* of what you believe. In Scripture some respond with hostility, others with humility.
- B. The religious leaders really **didn't want to know** the truth, they only wanted **power**
1. **Slide18b** Why do some people not want to follow Jesus? Because if you embrace Jesus as Lord, **everything** in your life changes. **And** that scares some people. **They don't want to everything to change** in their life. The religious leaders would need to get a new job if they said, **Jesus is Lord**.
 2. Often beneath peoples **questions about faith** is actually **deep fears and selfish desires**. **They don't want to give up their immorality**. **Or they don't wanna give up their power**. [it wasn't lack of knowledge, **but** unwillingness to accept the truth]
 - a) **Slide18c** God never condemns people for **ignorance**, **but** for those who **have the light & disobey it**.
 - b) **See** they would rather *run their own lives and live as they please*. They'd rather *be like God, than to be answerable to Him*. **See Sin rejects God's authority and** seeks to *live autonomously*.
- C. **Notice** how Jesus engages his enemies. He, *in a Jesus like way*, answers a question with a question.
1. They're trying to intimidate Jesus with their questions **and** with their numbers. We as Christians will often be in conversations and find ourselves on the defense. **Ask questions!**
 2. Jesus also **asks lost people** questions too.

D. I just picked up a book called *Questioning Evangelism*, where Randy Newman argues that *asking questions and starting meaningful conversations is a far better method for sharing faith, than prepared speeches or statements*. (Lee Strobel, frwd)

1. The world has **change**, but our gospel *hasn't*.
2. Our environment is **more hostile**, but our gospel *is as good as ever* :)

E. The Church has worked through different motivations to *share her faith*.

1. *A few decades ago*, sharing your faith was very **guilt-based**.
2. *Then* the primary motivation became **triumphalism**. We had *more evidence, better apologetics, and better arguments* than those around us.
 - a) *We wanted to win!* ... which was even worse than the **guilt motivated** days. *Today* more and more *followers of Jesus* want to share their faith, because of *concern for lost people, because they love them*.
3. **Questions** place a proverbial **pebble** in someone's shoe.
 - a) *What makes you believe that? What brought you to that conclusion?*

F. **Jesus**, He's a *King on a colt*. He's a *King with tears*. He's a *King with all authority*. He's the *perfect King*. He's the *perfect ruler*.

1. *Let me place a pebble in your shoe, Does Christ today have authority in your life?*

G. Keywords: tears, temple, authority.