

THE WEeping OF JESUS

Monday, April 19

Reading: Luke 13:31-35

Luke 13:34 *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

Following His discussion of salvation comes Jesus' sadness over the fate of Jerusalem. He had just implied by His parables that many Jews would not be saved and now He grieves over their rejection of His message of the kingdom.

A SUSPICIOUS WARNING (13:31-33) – The motives behind the Pharisees warning about Herod are not known. But the Pharisees are never shown in a positive way in Luke's gospel so it is best to view this incident in that light. They may have simply wanted to get rid of Jesus and hoped He would hide in fear from the man who had already killed His cousin, John the Baptist. In fact, Jesus implies that these Pharisees are in league with Herod and will report back to him.

Jesus' answer is simple: His mission will not be controlled by the wicked monarch or the religious leaders. He would continue to teach and heal until His purpose was fulfilled – His death for the sins of the world. "It cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem." Jesus words stung the ears of His listeners. They looked at Jerusalem as "the holy city." Jesus saw it as a city that consistently rejected God's prophets and would now rejected the Messiah Himself!

A SORROWFUL WARNING (13:34-35) – Despite their rejection, Jesus still had a deep love for these people. He wept that they had rejected His offer of love and protection. Because of their rejection, judgment was coming! "Your house" could refer to the Temple or the nation as a whole. Both would be left desolate. The word means abandoned. Since they had abandoned their Messiah, Jesus would now abandon them. Jeremiah had prophesied similar words about the first Temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians.

"I have forsaken My house, I have left My heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies" (Jeremiah 12:7)

Jesus' promises He will come back, but only when the nation acknowledges Him as their Messiah. The quote from Psalm 118:26 was shouted by the crowds on Palm Sunday, but it was not embraced by their leaders or most of their fellow Jews. Someday Israel will accept their Messiah, but at this time He was "the stone which the builders rejected" (Psalm 118:22). Jesus would apply this verse to Himself (Luke 20:17) and Peter would do the same (Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7). Though rejected, Jesus was the cornerstone on which the kingdom of God would be built.

Do we have compassion for those who reject or mistreat us? To follow the example of Jesus is to weep for unbelievers even as we lovingly warn them of the consequences of their rejection of Christ.

READ THRU THE BIBLE: 2 Kings 5-8; John 13