

Hey. Good morning. I know you're missing Tim, but he'll be back. I think he's in Tennessee with the boys.

And I heard one of the boys is driving through the mountains. Maybe he won't be back. I don't know. So I think he will be.

Luke 19, verse 41. Jesus, as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, began to weep.

Occasionally, I hear somebody pray, Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours.

That always catches my attention. Disturbs me a little bit. What does it mean? Do you pray it? Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours.

Back in the spring of 2020, a group from our church went to Israel. Some of you in the room were on that trip. Some of you have been there on other trips. Tim and I were on this last trip. It was quite an amazing thing.

And one of the places we visited was the Wailing Wall. And really, it's just a large retaining wall, but it's so much more. It's a sacred site that draws masses of people from all over the world. It's a place of prayer. It's a place of reflection.

It's a place of heartbreak, really, and tears for a lot of people. Right above that retaining wall is where we believe that Abraham, who lived around the year 2000 B.C. we believe that Abraham was willing to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, but God stopped him. You can read about that in Genesis 22. And it was right above that retaining wall, the same place where Abraham lived, that hundreds of years later, about a thousand years later, in the 10th century BC King Solomon was told by God to build a temple.

And I think it was around 950, he builds this massive, beautiful structure that God says is a place where he'll keep his presence. It becomes an intersection of heaven and earth. You can come here and meet me. God says it was stunningly beautiful. Well, keep moving down the timeline.

A few years later, several hundred years later, Solomon's temple is destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and it was devastating. It was heartbreaking. You can imagine how you felt on 911 when the trade towers, twin towers went down. And this would be so much more.

This is a temple of God. This is God's place in his presence, and it's destroyed by these Babylonians. And you can read about the feelings that Jeremiah has in the Book of Lamentations. It just was terrible. The good news was that some 70 years after that, there's a leadership

change and the people of God are allowed to go back to Jerusalem, to go back home.

And they were actually given resources to rebuild the temple. So they rebuild the temple in 5, 16 B.C. a guy named Zerubbabel. And you could read about that in Ezra and Nehemiah in your Old Testament. Okay, so you're saying, what are you doing?

Well, let's go 500 more years. And it's right before Jesus is born. And this is where we want to be right before Jesus is born. Herod the Great, trying to improve his approval rating with the Jewish people, says, hey, how would you like to take this temple that Zerubbabel built? How would you feel if I expanded it and renovated it and made it like the glory days of Solomon's temple?

And the people said, yes, and that's what happened. And so it becomes this beautiful, impressive structure. It's a place of prayer. It's a place that people come to because it's an intersection of heaven and earth. They come to be in God's presence.

And you read your New Testament. It's a place where Jesus went and taught from time to time. But it's also a place where Jesus got really angry because as he looked at it, he said, you have. You have corrupted its purpose. You have turned this place of prayer into a den of robbers.

It was a really sad occasion. In lots of ways, the people had missed. The heart of God was Jesus wraps up his ministry just days before he dies. He's on a mountain, the Mount of Olives. Not a very big mountain, but it's called the Mount of Olives.

And many of you stood there and you look over and you can see the city of Jerusalem. And so Jesus is there. He's on the Mount of Olives. It's likely Sunday of Holy Week just days before he dies. And from that Mount of Olives, he can see the city.

And I'm sure he sees the temple as the focal point because it's so sacred, it's so full of stories, it's so rich in history. And as Jesus looks at it, he knows what's going to happen. It breaks his heart. It breaks his heart. Luke 19, verses 41 through 44 says this.

As he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep.

How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace.

But now it's too late. And the peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long, your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle and close in on you on from every side they will crush you into the

ground and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place because you did not recognize it when God visited you.

Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours. So on that mountain, on that day, Jesus sees the city, sees the Temple. He also sees 40 years into the future, and he sees the destruction of Jerusalem. It breaks his heart. He weeps.

He wails. This is not a quiet tear running down his cheek. The Greek word suggests it's a very expressive, loud, sobbing, wailing expression of grief. Jesus looks at the city. He sees the Temple, and I think he sees the history.

He knows what's taking place on this sacred site and in the sacred building. He sees it all. He knows the stories. But here's what he sees mainly. He mainly sees what could have been, what could have been, been.

He sees the path of peace that he has provided, and he watches people walk away from it, reject it. And now it's too late. Destruction awaits.

Jesus wept.

The tearful prophecy of Jesus becomes a reality in 70 AD. This is just history. 70 AD the Romans, led by Titus, they. They literally surround the city with 80,000 soldiers, just like Jesus said, and they cut off supplies and people starved to death. There are horrific stories that you may not want to read about this.

The Romans build ramps and eventually break through the city walls using battering rams. They destroy the Temple stone by stone. They kill tens of thousands of men, women and children. Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived through this whole episode, tells of horrific stories about what happened to people. Ultimately, the words of Jesus come true.

He said in Luke 21, not one stone will be left on another. Talking about the Temple, Josephus, speaking of Jerusalem and the Temple, said in Jewish wars, he said it was so thoroughly leveled to the ground, it looked like no one had ever lived there.

So Jesus, standing there on that Sunday on the Mount of Olives, looking at the Temple, looking at the city, seeing all of this before it happens, he weeps. He weeps because he cares. He doesn't want anyone to perish. He doesn't want anyone to miss out on this path of peace that he provides that leads to eternal life.

Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours.

As we think about all this, I'm confronted with a question, and I'm going to confront you with it as well.

Do our hearts break? For what breaks is when you look at the world and look at everything that's going on, do you feel the weight of sin and rebellion and its effect on us and on the world around us?

Do you weep or do you just get mad?

Do you weep for the lost souls in our world? Do you think about your neighbors who are lost? Do you think about people you work with, people you go to school with? Maybe people in your family?

Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours. When we pray that prayer, what are we praying and what are we saying?

Here's what I think it means. I believe we're praying that we want our hearts to align with the heart of God. We want his eyes to see what he sees and to see things as he sees them.

Here's the good news. The deep, deep desire for God, of God is for people to know Him. He wants more than anything for people to have a peaceful or loving, loving relationship with him through Jesus. And he wants us to experience life in a full, abundant way that just kind of transitions into eternal life where we begin this journey that eventually ends up when we're in his presence, where there is no more death, there's no more mourning, no more crying or pain. All that stuff has been done away with.

And so Jesus comes and he says earlier in Luke 19, I came to seek and save the lost. That's why I'm here. I've come to provide a way. I've come to provide a path to peace. And you read Luke and you see these stories that Jesus says, I will go after one lost soul.

I'll leave the 99 secure, and I'll go find that one, that one lost sheep. And I will search desperately and frantically for one lost coin. And I will welcome home one rebellious, stinking pig pen boy.

Come on home. Come on home. This is the heart of God. He just loves us so much. John 3:16.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. And whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed. In the name of God's one and only Son.

I didn't come to condemn. I came to save. But I can't save people who

won't come to me, I think is what he would say. It just breaks his heart when people walk away and people drift away. It just breaks his heart when people miss the mark and when they can't see the peace that he provides.

Jesus weeps. He wept. He weeps, and I think he still weeps over the lost. So, Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours?

So let's challenge ourselves a little bit this morning.

I want us to think about ourselves just for a moment.

Here's a question. Are we on the path? Are you on the path to peace that leads to eternal life? Am I? Just ask it for yourself.

Are you in a relationship with Jesus? Have you made him the Lord of your life? Jesus enters the world to show us who God is. If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. He says, but more than that, he not only comes to show us the heart of God, he comes to take care of our sin problem.

He dies. He takes our sin. He takes my sin, takes your sin. And he says, I will pay the price for that. And he dies.

He dies for us. But he didn't stay dead on a Sunday morning. He ran, rises from the dead, proving that he has power over life and death. He loves us. He loves us.

And he says, listen, here's a path to peace. Here's a way to life, abundant and eternal.

Here's the way to a new life, a life of peace, joy and confidence. And so the question is, do you know that? Do you know him? Have you invited him in to rule over your heart and your life? Have you reenacted his death, burial and resurrection in the waters of baptism?

See Romans 6. If. If not, then today's a pretty good day to do that. Assuming most of us have, then I want to challenge us to think about something else. I want us to think about the tears of Jesus.

I want us to think about his broken heart over the lost. And I want to challenge us just what should we do about this?

There are people all around us who are lost.

They're everywhere.

They don't have peace. They don't have joy. They don't have confidence in the future.

They live with pain. And honestly, some of them are big pains, right? They just. They create pain for us. You've heard the expression hurt people, hurt people.

And our response, A lot of times, we just don't like them. We don't want to be around them. They are repulsive. We're repulsed by their behavior, and we just don't care that much for them.

But if I can break my hard heart and if I can see what God sees, then I would see that underneath all that behavior is a hurting heart that so desperately needs the love of God. And maybe I could see that this is a person that Jesus weeps over.

He weeps for them. I want to do the same. To do that, I've got to learn to look past the things that create division and seek to find that place of love where I can show them the love of God.

You probably know somebody that's on a path to destruction.

And if we're honest, sometimes we say, yeah, that's fine. That's what they deserve.

That's what we all deserve.

Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours. So this is a challenge. Who in your life is lost, who is hurting? Who is far from God? You may not even like them.

Who is yet to find a path to peace that Jesus offers? Ask God to break your heart for them. Not in despair, but in a hopeful way that stirs us to pray, to serve, to listen and to share the love of Christ. Maybe it's a co worker who's struggling. Maybe it's a neighbor who's lonely.

Maybe it's a family member who's drifted away. Our compassion that leads to action can be the bridge that leads them to Jesus. So let's pray this prayer with courage. Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours. So let's ask God to open our eyes to the lost around us, to fill us with his compassion, to empower us with his spirit and to give us the boldness to act.

So here is specifically what I want us all to do. Two things. Number one, pray daily for one person. You can pray for more, but don't just say, I'll pray for the lost. Think about who it is, See their face, name their name, take them to God.

Asking God to open their eyes so that they can see the path to peace.

Break my heart so that I can be this tool. The second piece is to reach out to that person. Not with a bunch of Bible verses, but just say, hey, I don't know why, but you were on my mind today. I'm hoping

you're having a good day. Just want you to know I was thinking about you today.

And you might progress and say, I prayed for you today. Hope that's okay. But just begin that journey and that contact with somebody that you're praying for as God breaks your heart for what breaks his.

In just a few moments, we're going to take communion. And as we come to communion, I want us to linger for just a moment more on that mountain outside of Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, where Jesus looks over and sees the city and weeps.

Jesus was weeping for the people who missed the peace that he offered, for the ones who could not see God standing right in front of them. Jesus wept because his love is real, is painful. It was deep. He saw the destruction coming and it broke his heart. But here's the thing.

He didn't just weep. He did something about it. He walked down the hill and took another step toward the cross. So the bread and the cup that we're going to take, a little piece of bread and a little bit of juice in a cup, they remind us that Jesus didn't just feel sorry for the lost, he did something about it. He gave himself for the lost.

He gave himself for us. This is what love looks like. A Savior who weeps over our sin. A Savior who bears our sin. A Savior who defeats sin by laying down his life.

So when we take the bread, we remember his body, not held to the Roman cross by nails, but by love. When we take the cup, we remember his blood poured out not by force, but willingly, as a new covenant of peace between God and humanity. And as we remember him, let's also look around with his eyes. Who does he still weep for? Who is still lost?

Let's remember that what he's done for us. And may we be moved to do something, to love as he loved. Pursuing the lost with intentionality. Let me pray. Father, we thank you for this reminder.

It's. I don't know, it's not the most enjoyable thing to think about, but it's so important to think about those who do not know what we know and to be intentional about seeking them, sharing with them your love, showing them the way, showing them the path to peace. We thank you that we can commune this morning to remember our journey and how we once were lost, but that now are found. And we thank you for the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus which comes to mind as we take this bread and drink this cup and move us, Father, to share your love. May our hearts, which are often hard and cold, may they be broken and warmed as we think about what breaks your heart.

It's in Jesus name we pray.

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