

## Miss Not the Day of Your Visitation

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### **Luke 19:41-44**

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

The Prophetic Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem a week before his crucifixion, Palm Sunday, is an event that tells much about our human hearts.

Jesus' affection and love for the city of Jerusalem is much like his affection and love for our souls.

This moment seems, to the human eye, to be the crescendo of Jesus' ministry but actually it is the tipping point that leads to his sacrificial death.

Jesus, outside of Jerusalem to the east towards the Mount of Olives, tells the disciples for a third time that he will be betrayed, beaten, killed, and will rise again in Jerusalem and all of this will happen on Passover.

All four gospels tell the story which was prophesied 500 years before in:

### **Zechariah 9:9-11, 14**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>14</sup> Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

Zechariah prophesies of a humble entry that will establish a blood covenant but also of a global rule by a victorious King. He prophesies two events but they only see and want one.

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" <sup>10</sup> And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

For those studying, this story is also listed in:

Mark 1:1-10

Luke 19:28-40

John 12:12-15

Jesus' final week contains many encounters but it centers on his final judgements and words against the leadership of Jerusalem.

The first thing he does is cleanse the Temple or "His House" in:

### **Matthew 21:12-15**

And Jesus entered the temple[a] and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." <sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant,

Then in the twenty third chapter he speaks his final "woes" to the rejecting religious order in Jerusalem and ends by saying:

### **Matthew 23:37-39**

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

He clearly says -"now YOUR house is left to you desolate" instead of the earlier "My House shall be a House of Prayer".

Jesus, in his love and desire for us,

-Marches into our lives even in our rejection of him or our "fickle praise"

-He then proceeds to disrupt the "worship disorder" in our lives by turning over our "tables"

-He will finally leave you to yourself if you will not respond - If you will not be my house, I leave you to you

-At the end, though, you, I, and the rest of the planet are faced with his passion on the Cross and his

Resurrection which is his ultimate act of love for us.

So I ask, have you:

Noticed the Lord drawing near you? Luke 19:41

**Luke 19:41**

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,

-Are you recognizing what would really bring you peace? Luke 19:42

**Luke 19:42**

saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

-In a nutshell, are you missing the day of your visitation? Luke 19:44

**Luke 19:44**

and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Let us receive our personal Visitation from Jesus.