

The Heart of God

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” – Luke 19:41-42

As Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crowds were celebrating. They were laughing. They were cheering. They were laughing. They were cheering. They were having a great time. And what was Jesus doing? He saw the city, and He wept over it. Here was the crowd, whipped into frenzy, and Jesus was weeping. The crowd was rejoicing, and Christ was sobbing.

Why did Jesus weep when He saw Jerusalem? Being God and having omniscience, Jesus knew these fickle people who were crying out, “Hosanna!” would soon be shouting, “Crucify Him!” He knew that one of His handpicked disciples, Judas, would betray Him. He knew that another disciple, Peter, would deny Him. He knew that Caiaphas, the high priest, would conspire with Pilate, the Roman governor, to bring about His death. And, He knew the future of Jerusalem.

Looking ahead 40 years, He saw the destruction that would come upon the city at the hands of the Emperor Titus and his Roman legions.

Jesus also wept because His ministry was almost over. Time was short. He had healed the sick. He had raised the dead. He had cleansed their lepers. He had fed their hungry. He had forgiven their sins. Yet for the most part, He had been rejected. John 1:11 says, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.” And so He wept. This broke His heart, and it still does.

Unbelief and rejection breaks God’s heart, because He knows the consequences. But when the door of the human heart (mind) is shut, He refuses to enter forcibly. He will only knock, wanting to gain admittance. He has given to us the ability to choose. But when we choose the wrong thing, He knows the repercussions that will follow – in this life and the one to come. And His heart is broken.

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