

We have been looking at the “Heart” of Jesus- how Jesus felt about the downcast, his willingness to surrender to God’s plan, and today we are going to consider Jesus’ heart for the lost. Our desire is to have “A Heart Like His.”

### Blessed Is the King Who Comes in The Name of the Lord

We see the heart of Jesus in a story known as The Triumphal Entry. When Jesus arrived for his final time in Jerusalem, a few days before his crucifixion, he was riding on a colt and welcomed as a triumphal King.

**Luke 19:35-40** They brought (the colt) it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. **37** When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: **38** “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

**39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

**40** “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

### Jesus Wept

If we are honest with ourselves, I believe all of us would enjoy being celebrated and appreciated in this way. It would be easy to get caught up in all the praise and adoration. Our hearts would enjoy the attention, but that wasn’t the heart of Jesus in this moment. What was in Jesus’ heart?

**Luke 19:41** As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.

As we read and talk about Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we often overlook this part of the story.

- Matthew, Mark, and John don’t mention it. Only the Gospel of Luke records it.
- By every indication, the crowds didn’t notice it either.
  - The fact that some missed Jesus weeping is testimony to the intensity and praise of the crowd.
  - It was easy to get *caught up in the rejoicing* and not notice what *Jesus was feeling* at this point.

Let’s not let it pass by us today. As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it.

Normally, when I hear the world weep, I think of someone shedding a few tears, but the Greek word used in this text for wept suggests **soul wracking, gut wrenching, and teeth gritting sobbing**.

2799 klaio (klah'-yo); of uncertain affinity; to sob, i.e. wail aloud (whereas 1145 is rather to cry silently):

KJV-- bewail, weep. // 1145 dakruo (dak-roo'-o); from 1144; to shed tears: KJV-- weep. Compare 2799.

- This was the type of weeping that one would do at the death of a family member or friend.
  - The word is used for Mary’s sobs at the tomb of Lazarus. **John 11:33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.
    - Even though Mary wept a gut-wrenching cry (2799 klaio), in this case Jesus did not. **John 11:34** “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. **35** Jesus wept. (1145 dakruo, to shed tears, not 2799 klaio) **Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"** Jesus’ weeping over Jerusalem was much more intense than His weeping over Lazarus.
- This was the type of weeping like Mary Magdalene’s sobs at Jesus’ tomb. **John 20:11-12** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.
- This was the type of weeping like Peter’s “bitter” weeping after he denied Jesus and heard the rooster crow. **Luke 22:61-62** The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” **62** And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- **This is the type of weeping when John the revelator wept bitterly** when he thought that no one could be found worthy to open the scroll of God. **Revelation 5:4-5 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”**

### **Jesus Wept Violently for the People of Jerusalem. But Why?**

What could Jesus have been thinking? What was Jesus feeling in his heart as he wept so bitterly?

- Some may think that He was weeping because He knew what was going to happen to Him.
- But it was not for Himself, not for the cross awaiting Him, but for the people of Jerusalem.

**Luke 19:41 -44 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”**

#### **1. Jesus wept for the people who would be hurt when the city would be destroyed.**

**Amidst the shouts of joy and praises,** Jesus heard the screams, cries, shrieks, and groans of the men, women, and children who would die in that city.

- The Roman General Titus would invade in 70 AD, destroy the temple, and brutalize the people.
- The temple stones were inlaid with gold, so every stone was removed to take the gold.

#### **2. Jesus wept because the people had missed their appointment with God.**

**(v 44b) because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.” (NIV)**  
**(...because you did not know the time of your visitation. NKJ)**

**Jerusalem, you missed your visitation from God!** God was there with you.  
 God wanted to do something with you, and you missed the whole thing!

As a result of missing God, calamity was coming upon the city, but worse than a physical disaster, pain, and loss, were **the spiritual implications of missing God.** They missed **the true joy of salvation** that would be far better than the **momentary joy** they were experiencing at Jesus’ triumphal entry.

**When everyone else was having a party, Jesus was moved with compassion for the lost.  
 Jesus himself came to give them abundant life, and they missed it!**

Jesus has a heart for lost people. He was moved with compassion for them.

**Matthew 9:36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.** Since Jesus has a heart for lost people and compassion for them, we should too. **37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

*Listen.*

*Can you hear the cries of the lost in our city?  
 People who are missing their visitation from God?*

May our hearts be filled with love for the lost and, like Jesus, be moved with compassion.

## **Missed Visitations**

Don't miss the fact that **the intensity of Jesus' grief, this soul wracking, gut wrenching, teeth gritting sobbing, was brought on...** (v 44b) **because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."** (NIV) (...because you did not know the time of your visitation. NKJ)

**One of the most exciting** things for me, as a pastor, is that **God shows me things that He wants to do.**

- He shows me where He wants **to take us as a church.**
- Sometimes He shows me what He wants to accomplish in the **lives of individuals.**

**One of the most painful** things for me, as a pastor, is that **God shows me things that He wants to do.**

- He shows me where He wants **to take us as a church.**
- Sometimes, He shows me what He wants to accomplish in the **lives of individuals.**

*("Now wait a minute, Scott. How can the same thing bring you both excitement and pain?")*

- The pain comes when God shows me what He can and desires to do in **my life**, and then I walk away from it. I miss it. I miss the time of my visitation.
- The pain comes when God shows me what He can and desires to do in **your life**, and then you walk away from it. You miss it. You miss the time of your visitation.
- The pain comes when God shows me what He can and desires to do in **the life of this church**, and then we walk away from it. We miss it. We miss the time of our visitation.
- The pain comes when God shows me how much He loves **unbelievers** and what He can and desires to do **in their lives**, and yet they walk away from Him. They miss it, the time of their visitation.
- The pain comes when I see our church moving forward in **the direction that God has for us, and people refuse to be a part of it.** They walk away. They miss out, miss the time of their visitation.

**I see people that:**

- Choose the **easy path** rather than the **narrow path.**
- Choose **Sin and pleasure** rather than **God's plan** for their lives.
- I see young, talented people seek **fame** rather than planting and **growing in a church family.**
- **Walk out of Godly relationships** and marriages to chase an illusion of **someone better.**
- Choose to turn **back to lives of addiction** from which God has set them **free.**
- **Walk away from peace** to **pursue things** that bring **no peace at all.**
- Chase careers over family.
- **Come to Believers**, they themselves or their family members are **saved and baptized**, their children are **growing** in the Lord, **God is favoring them**, and then they **turn away to some form of idolatry** and just don't have time for church anymore.
- Turn their nose up and wag their heads at the **local church**, but I know Jesus desires for it to be **His body**, a place that **demonstrates His Glory**, a place that **reaches the lost** of this world.

**These things grieve my heart, like they grieve the heart of Jesus.**

**I too feel God's pain. These things make me weep.**

I believe there is one thing that grieves the heart of God more than anything else. It is when He is actively doing something right in our midst, and we totally miss it.

- Windows of opportunity are open, and we don't pass through. The path has been laid out before us, and we don't take it. The price has been paid for us, and we don't receive the gift of God.

I don't want to see Jesus standing in heaven and weeping over us, our families, our church, our city, or the United States of America because we are missing the time of our visitation.

## What If We Don't Miss God?

Even though most missed the true implications of who Jesus was and what he wanted for them, His arrival still caused Jerusalem to be shaken. **Matthew 21:10-11** **When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."**

The word used for "stirred" here is the word "seio" from which we get our word "seismic."

- The city was stirred as an earthquake "stirs" the ground! A seismic event!

God is allowing this Church to be a significant player in what He wants to accomplish in this city.

And if we don't miss that, if we don't miss this time of divine visitation, we will see God do something that has never been done in this city before.

- I believe God wants to shake our city. A move of His Spirit of seismic proportions!

### And I believe the time is now.

Why has God **brought** you here?

Why has He **taught** you and **prepared** you?

Why has He blessed you?

Why has He **commissioned** you?

Why has He **chosen** you?

Who me? Yes you! **Luke 19:42 ... "If you, even you, (Even you Believers Church! Even you, Statesboro, even you, Bulloch County, even the surrounding areas!) had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**

- Don't let this current move of God be hidden from your eyes.
- Don't hide your eyes from what God is doing.

### Let's not miss the time of our visitation.

Next Sunday is "The Wonderous Cross." I encourage you to invite your friends and family to come on Palm Sunday and/or Good Friday to see how the blood of Jesus applied to our lives brings us grace and mercy. Then on Easter Sunday let's fill the house as well and celebrate Jesus' resurrection to give us life. Now our lives have changed, and we can begin to Live the Resurrection Life!

Surveys tell us:

- The majority of people who don't know Jesus and who don't attend church all give the same reason they don't. They say, **"No one ever asked."**
- Researcher George Barna showed that **twenty-five percent** of adults in the United States would go to church if a friend would just invite them. Think about it, one in four of your friends would be willing to join you.
- Easter Sunday is the most likely day for an unsaved person to visit a church.

**Next Step: Over the next two weeks I will try my best to bring someone to Palm Sunday and/or Good Friday to hear and experience "The Wonderous Cross."**

**Next Step: I will also do everything possible to bring someone on Easter Sunday to hear about "Living the Resurrection Life." I don't want to miss the time of God's visitation!**

## BAPTISM INVITATION