



Cleaning House

Luke 19:41-48

- As we get closer to Easter and the celebration of the resurrection, there are some critical events that are recorded in Jesus' last days of His ministry here on Earth.
- These events lead up to the culmination of the Gospel – The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Luke includes the details concerning the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. That's what we will celebrate next Sunday on Palm Sunday. They cried out to Jesus and asked for His salvation.
- But in one of the most interesting dynamics of this story – they were interested in Jesus leading a political revolution against the Romans. Many didn't understand the exact

nature of Jesus' ministry and role in fulfilling the OT prophesy of the Messiah. In fact, it would be much later that many would cry out to the authorities to crucify Jesus.

- There is a dramatic shift from Luke's recording of the Triumphal Entry to Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem.
- In fact, the city of Jerusalem would be overtaken and the temple destroyed just a few decades after Jesus' life and ministry on earth.
- This account of Jesus' entry is recorded next to the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple. It all comes down to this, essentially:
 - o There are sever warnings for those who reject the message of the Gospel.
 - o But there are great blessings for those who trust in Gospel.

Main Point: Jesus came to bring hope to those who respond to the truth of the Gospel.

- That is the motivation that led Him to the cross. While His enemies were conspiring against Him, everything was unfolding according to the plan of God.
- Jesus wasn't worried about what to do in response to this. He was committed to fulfilling the will of the Father. ***The only question was – would the people respond and put their trust in God rather than the ways of the world?***
- There are lessons today for us because the message of the Gospel is an urgent one.

I. Missing the truth

- a. John 1 says that Jesus came unto His own, but His own did not receive Him. The Jewish people had been given the promised Messiah, but many of them had rejected the message He brought.

- b. Jesus' response was to weep over the city of Jerusalem. This was a rare response from Jesus, similar to what we read of Jesus weeping over Lazarus' tomb in John 11.
- c. They had missed the opportunity to see peace brought to them spiritually by expressing their trust in Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.
- d. Application
 - i. I was around four or five years old when our home caught on fire. All I remember was waking up in the car outside our home. Our dog was licking me to wake me up. My brother had taken me out to the car in the middle of the night while the firefighters worked to stop the house fire.
 - ii. I remember going back in several days later to see what was left. The whole house had to be demolished, but there were a few things that were salvageable.
 - iii. One of the few things that seemed to be left untouched by the fire was a picture of this scene described here in Luke 19 – Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem.
- e. I say that – not because there was something magical about a picture, but it has always been a powerful reminder to me about the scene that was taking place there.
- f. Don't miss what God has laid out right in front of you. Put your trust in the Lord before it's too late.

II. Misguided hearts

- a. You may remember – in the late 90s it was really popular to have these bracelets that said – WWJD. What would Jesus do?
- b. I always thought that was an interesting question.
- c. Sometimes, we may not know exactly what Jesus would do in a particular situation. But we may need to be careful in asking that question because Jesus may would come in a flip some tables.
- d. Luke said that Jesus was teaching daily in the temple. So, He was well aware of the people and the circumstances that were taking place there.
- e. He could see what exactly they had turned this place into. He saw the misguided intentions of their heart.
- f. He said that they turned this house of prayer into a den of thieves.
 - i. The word for thief here could be translated as robber or rebel. The connotation was someone who had premeditated motives on stealing from the people he would encounter. Like a highway robber waiting for someone to come along so he could mug them.
- g. What seems clear is that this was not just one person in the temple. It was a group of people.
- h. Interesting thing about groups – many of us are tempted to go along with the group in what they think, say, or do.
 - i. Groupthink – phenomenon that happens with a group of people make irrational decisions because of group conformity.
- i. *We need to be careful of what we do, how we do it, and how we lead others.*

III. Consequences that come

- a. There are several consequential actions that were recorded here.
- b. Jesus
 - i. Because Jesus preached the truth, there were people that hated Him.
- c. The priests, scribes, and leaders of the people
 - i. They were obsessed with what Jesus was preaching – considered Him a threat and sought to kill Him.
- d. The people
 - i. They were captivated by what they heard.
- e. Be careful of who you allow to influence you.
- f. Be careful that you seek to honor God and follow Him.