

Luke 19:28-48

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem, and as we approach the last few chapters of Luke's gospel, things begin to heat up.

1. Today we will see some misunderstandings that the Jews had that caused unnecessary tensions: isn't that true of many conflicts...misunderstandings?
2. And these misunderstandings culminate in a powerful correction and rebuke from Jesus as He cleanses the Temple
3. The passage ends with the Jews seeking to destroy Jesus...and it will only intensify next week.

READ

We see 3 misunderstandings in our text that lead to an intense hatred of Jesus by the Jews.

### **1. There was a misunderstanding of Jesus v28-40**

*28 After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.*

1. Wait just a minute! Did Jesus just tell His disciples to steal a colt?
2. That has been an accusation leveled at Jesus. But read on!

*31 If*

1. If...Jesus never had to use the word "if."
2. There were no ifs with Jesus. He knew!

*If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.' 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them.*

1. How did they find it? Just as He had told them.
2. And not only did they find the colt, but they found the owner too...just as he had said.
3. His "if anyone asks you" became a "when anyone asks you" and He was not surprised.

*33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. 37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 38 shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

1. Does it seem odd to anyone who knows the story that the same people who were greeting Him with such excitement today...were yelling crucify Him less than a week later?
2. I don't know why it should...because we sing His praises on Sunday and many of us, before we get home crucify Him all over again with our words, our attitudes, and our actions.
3. What made them shift gears so fast here? One reason was the fact that they misunderstood the Messiah.

- a. They all thought that Messiah would enter Jerusalem and by his mighty works, take his throne and make Israel free from Rome. Luke 19:11
- b. They were expecting a military leader who would physically free them from their oppressors.
- c. They were likely disappointed when they discovered that he had come to free them from their sin through his voluntary suffering and death and resurrection.
4. But at this moment they were praising Him...and look at what happens then.

*39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."*

1. There is a clear disagreement here.
2. The Pharisees do not like the fact that Jesus' followers are praising Him and leading others to do the same.
3. They tell Jesus to stop them...after all, no mere man would be comfortable with people worshipping him in this way.
4. Exactly! Look at how Jesus responds.

*40 But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"*

1. If I stop them from praising me...the very rocks will do it because I must be praised.
2. What kind of mere man says something like that?
3. Jesus will be praised! The whole design of the universe is that Christ be praised.
4. Revelation 5

There was a major misunderstanding about who Jesus was.

1. The worshippers thought he was the Messiah who would conquer Rome
2. The Pharisees thought he was a mere man who gloated on the praise of men
3. And they both missed it.
  - a. I wonder how many of us miss Jesus?
  - b. We create a Jesus we like, we agree with, who is our personal bellhop...but how much of our Jesus do we get from the Scriptures?
  - c. We may get some of the real Jesus from the pastor or the Sunday school teacher, but...

**If you are watching 70 hours of television each week while staring at your smart phone, and you seldom if ever crack open a Bible, ignorance of Christ will characterize you.**

- d. Truth be told, we may be so ignorant of the biblical Jesus that if He showed up here today, we might miss him...even crucify Him again...or try!

e. John 1:26-27 *John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."*

4. The Pharisees and the followers missed it and this misunderstanding brought about the murder of Jesus a few days later, and the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later.

And Jesus saw it all coming...read on.

## **2. They Misunderstood Jerusalem v41-44**

*41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you,*

*and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”*

They thought Jerusalem would be the center of the world!

1. The temple would be the place for all to gather to worship the Messiah and sacrifice and celebrate.
2. But they misunderstood Jerusalem

Jesus knew what the future held.

1. He wept over the blindness of and the impending misery of Jerusalem.
2. In AD 70 Jerusalem would be sieged and destroyed by the Romans
3. In one village alone, according to Josephus, the Romans took captive 1200 women and children. During the course of these events, 40,000 were slain.
4. Jesus saw that coming and wept.

Christ weeps over heard-hearted, perishing Jerusalem as they fulfilled his plan.

1. They would kill Him..not because of a failure of His plan, but in fulfillment of it.
  - a. Luke 18:31-33
  - b. Acts 2:22-24 “*Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*”
2. They would be destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans, not as a surprise to Him, but because of His sovereign plan.
  - a. The Jews rejected Jesus and OT Judaism must be put to an end
  - b. No temple, no priests, no sacrifices, no Pharisees or Saducees
  - c. His people would be His priests and He would be their high priest
  - d. His people would be His temple, and he their sacrificial lamb.
3. Jesus had decreed this from eternity past. He is the sovereign Lord! But He wept.
  - a. He felt for Jerusalem
  - b. It broke His heart what would come to pass because of His great compassion for people
  - c. At the same it brought Him joy because of the great glory He was going to receive.

### **3. They Misunderstood the Nations v45-48**

*45 Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling, 46 saying to them, “It is written, ‘AND MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER,’ but you have made it a ROBBERS’ DEN.” 47 And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him, 48 and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.*

1. This was not a warning against having a rummage sale at the church...though I could list some reasons it may not be wise.
2. This is a rebuke of their blatant rejection of the fact that the One True God is concerned with

the nations

## The Temple Courts

1. The Outermost court was the court of the Gentiles
2. Then there was the court of the Jewish women
3. Then there was the court of the Jewish men, the holy place for the priests, and the holy of holies

Where do you think they set up their money exchange and animals for sale?

1. The holy place? The court reserved for the Jewish men? Jewish women? No?
2. Right, they crowded the court of the Gentiles
3. They basically barred them from the worship of the One True God!

Jesus said no! And they wanted to destroy Him for it.

1. Jesus comes to Jerusalem in a parade!
2. His heart breaks for what He knows will become of it all
3. But He has turned His attention to the ends of the earth...to all the nations...and they hate Him for it!
4. Let's just say if they want to destroy Him today, things are only going to get worse with what comes next week...but let's not get ahead of ourselves

The Jews absolutely loathed the thought of the nations, the Gentiles, being brought into the Kingdom.

1. It was true in Jesus' day...and it was true after His death, burial, and resurrection
2. In Acts 21 and 22 Paul gives a long defense to a crowd of Jews.
  - a. Acts 21:40 *When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect, saying....*
  - b. For 20 verses Paul gives his testimony before the hushed crowd...but at verse 21 things shift quickly and by verse 22 the crowd is ready to attack
  - c. Acts 22:22 *They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!"*
  - d. What would make them act this way? 1 verse. The verse between verses 1-20 and verse 22.
  - e. Acts 22:21 *And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'*
3. They absolutely loathed the thought of the nations, the Gentiles, being brought into the Kingdom.
  1. What about us? Are we indifferent?
  2. Do we bar the Kingdom from the least reached with our silence?
  3. Romans 10:12-15 *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

- a. We must Pray, Give, Go, **Spend** and Send like we mean it
- b. Or we might be guilty of barring the temple from the nations.

All of this honestly comes down to Jesus being praised and worshipped not just in Jerusalem at the Temple by the Jews, but by all nations and all peoples in every place!

1. Psalm 96:3-10a *Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns*

2. Revelation 7:9-10 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*