

Luke 19:28-44, "Missed Opportunity"

- ✚ Jesus has preached His message of repentance and receiving God's forgiveness. He has modeled His message by receiving the humble and broken, like Zacchaeus who knew his problem was not being right with God. He has told parable after parable to make it clear that He wasn't there to fix society but to fix the people of that society. He was not there to make stuff right but to make people right. He has had to, on numerous occasions, keep people from telling others about who He is and His miracles because of how they would perceive it, see **Matthew 16:16-20** and **Matthew 17:1-9**. Now, a day has come just four days before the end of His earthly ministry in which, He not only lets them proclaim Him as King, but He is also the One who orchestrates it.
- ✚ While everyone is rejoicing, He's weeping because they still will not listen to what He's been saying: **Luke 19:28-44**. He weeps because they missed their shot at true peace. Daniel had predicted this day 483 years before in **Daniel 9**. See "[The Prophecies of Daniel Lesson 4](#)" on our website, for more information about that particular prophecy. Jesus weeps because they still aren't listening; they still think their problem is the Romans, political oppression, taxation, poor government, and a dysfunctional society, but what they don't realize is their problem is with their relationship with their God. He comes to Jerusalem, not to attack their enemies but to attack the people of Jerusalem. He proclaims His judgment which would result in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. He clears the temple and denounces their superficial religion. He's there to end His work on the earth, not to begin it. He's there as God Himself, to end the curse that has ravaged the world for more than 4,000 years, and to pronounce the death of death itself. He is there to reverse what pushed Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and return our access to the Tree of Life.
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- ✚ Again, the real news is never in the news! God is reconciling the world to Himself through the sacrifice of His Son so that we do not have to pay for our own sins, but that Jesus will pay for them for us. But naturally, that's never in the news. The news is that Jesus is returning and there is going to be a global cataclysm as a result of it and you do not want to be on the wrong side of that event, but that's never in the news either. The real news is never in the news, which is why He has appointed us, His disciples, to bear the news of His great grace and longing to forgive people of their sins and to make them right in this life and also in the one to come. Don't wait for the world or your heart to tell you the truth, neither can do it. Are you listening to what the Savior is saying? Because the general trend is not to listen to Him or take Him seriously. The trend is for us to want to be the ones to tell Him how we want Him to be and act. We think we know what's best for us and think He should listen to us to make that come about. The trend is not to take His words for what they are, "this must be what I need to be and do." It is not to acknowledge Him as the King who knows what He's doing but to treat Him as the servant who needs our direction. The craziest part of this story is that He is and has been ruling over all the events and circumstances of history, but He's not ruling in the hearts of the people.
- ✚ Jesus left the area of Jericho and made the 17-mile, 4,000-foot climb to Jerusalem. He demonstrates His omniscience and omnipotence by sending His disciples to a particular donkey's colt. He knows this is a colt on which no one has ridden. He knows how this whole scene will go down. The disciple's response to the owner of the colt shouldn't have worked, but it did, Jesus knew it would. He knows the details of this day that no one else is privy to. He's able to take the details from the past and place them alongside the present with pinpoint precision, note **Matthew 21:4-5** quoting **Zechariah 9:9**. "And the LORD said, 'That's right, and it means that I am watching, and I will certainly carry out all my plans.'", **Jeremiah 1:12**. "He moves ahead even though nobody is tracking along with Him, note **John 12:16** "His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy." He knows what is in the hearts of people and how they have missed Him: **Luke 19:37-40**. This is so instructive: they are worshipping Him; the people are actively and correctly quoting Scripture about Him; right on cue, the Pharisees are denying Him; this is the day they should be doing that; the stones would do it if they didn't.
- Even though they are doing all this correctly, they are still wrong in their thinking. Luke 19:41-42, "You refused to see; now you will be unable to see; you refused to listen; now you will be unable to hear." The stones did cry out but not that day: Luke 19:44.**
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