

03.31.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “The Weeping King”

Scripture Reading: [Luke 19: 28 – 44](#)

Reflection: Pastor Evan

My heart has been heavy the past weeks. Many family, friends and fellow church members have been dealing with serious sickness, hospice care, dying, and death. I sympathize with Jesus who announced his upcoming substitutionary death to his closest friends who failed to grasp his pain, going so far as to tell him that this could never happen to him. Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, acknowledging the pain of death and separation. His heart must have been heavy as well. His procession as King, which should have been a time of crowning joy, brought him to tears again. My heart weeps for the sin-caused suffering in our world.

Our passage begins with these words, “After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.” On he goes, surrounded by people but facing his gruesome death alone. Approaching the Mount of Olives, he sends two disciples ahead to borrow a colt orchestrating the fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy ([9:9](#)) of the royal king entering Jerusalem on a colt. Disciples saddle the colt with their cloaks while others pave the road with their cloaks anticipating a Messianic celebration which would include the subsequent destruction of their oppressors. “Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in” ([Psalm 24:7](#)). People shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David” ([Matthew 21:9](#)).



For many, this was the moment they had waited their whole lives for. Voices brought both legitimate praise and misguided and obstinate disgust. Amidst all the well-deserved praise for Jesus (though mistaken regarding the kingdom Jesus was bringing), Pharisees reprimanded Jesus for allowing his disciples to shout praise. Jesus, ever teaching, says that if the people did not shout praise, the stones would cry out. (Note the reference to [1 Kings 1: 40](#) as Solomon was celebrated as king – “the ground shook with the sound.” Jerusalem’s ground and rocks were primed to join the inaugurations of kings.)

When Jesus lifted his eyes and saw the city of Jerusalem, knowing what would become of it some 40 years later when the Roman Empire destroyed it, he wailed loudly over it. His heart ached because the unbelief of many, including the religious leaders, would bring about their physical and eternal death. He was God’s anointed King, but they would not submit, humble themselves nor serve him. The Messiah they wanted would have to fit their design of greatness, not God’s design of being a servant.



On the south side of the present-day path, the world’s largest Jewish cemetery still functions. It is located east of the city, since it is the belief of many Jews that when their anticipated and designed Messiah comes, he will approach from the east, and they want to be as close to him as they can be when he comes. For them, Jesus wept.



For those who believed, and we who believe, Jesus was and is the only anointed, rightful King sent to the world to fully satisfy God's wrath against the sin of the world. There is a small chapel on the north side of the path that commemorates the fact that the Lord wept ([Dominus Flevit](#)). It is in the shape of a teardrop and provides a delightful place to sit and meditate on God's gift of salvation, available to all who will believe. It provides a place of solitude to think of Jesus' love for the world and for all those who submit to his Lordship and faithfully serve him.

There were, and still are, two sides to the path down the Mount of Olives. One represents the death of those who do not accept Jesus as God's King. The other represents the hope that Jesus provides for those who believe in him and can rejoice in his coronation as King. Those who join Jesus need to lament and weep for those who continue to seek their own way, apart from Jesus.

Prayer:

Father in heaven, you have provided a King to whom we all will bow, either in acceptance of his reign, or awaiting his judgment ([Philippians 2: 9 – 11](#)). May your Spirit work in the hearts of all who read this, enhancing submission to the King of kings and Lord of lords, bringing life abundant for all eternity. AMEN

Action Item for the Day/Week:

The choice is still with us. Either believe and know that Jesus provides victory over the evil empire for all eternity, or stubbornly refuse abundant life with Jesus and receive eternal death. Jesus wept for those who sought to hush the legitimate praise for him; he bled and died for those who accept him. What have you done with the gift of God in Jesus?

Songs for today:

[All Hail, King Jesus](#)