

***A Holy Heartbreak***  
***Luke 19:41-44***

**Intro:** Today is Palm Sunday...in many churches around the country people will be given palm branches as they arrive to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

They were excited – there was singing – many of them were excited but for the wrong reason. They were excited because they thought Jesus was coming to save them from the bondage of the Roman government that is why they sang Hosanna [save now]. In truth, however there is little reason for them to be excited.

All 4 accounts of His arrival speak of this excitement - singing, praising and waving branches – even laying coats on the road; but is this excitement the only thing we see there? Is that the only activity that is taking place? No!

There may be a party atmosphere taking place around His arrival but our Lord has an entirely different view of what is taking place

I believe the real truth of just how we should see Palm Sunday is found in our text today

**[Read Luke 19:41-44/pray/dismiss Jr. Church]**

Have you ever going to a party with a heavy heart? Have you, maybe because of some obligation, had to attend a holiday party but your heart wasn't in it?

I can remember as a teen onetime I went to a school dance. Everyone was having a great time; laughing, smiling and talking. But I wasn't having a very good time. You see my girlfriend; just a few minutes after arriving at the party told me she wanted to break-up so she could date someone else. Well I was heartbroken. When everyone else was having a party I couldn't bring myself to have a good time.

Now, not that this broken heart is any where close to the broken heart we see in our text, I believe we see **A Holy Heartbreak** taking place in our text.

Church history has tried to make Palm Sunday a celebration – and in many ways it should be. But I want to tell you that when we do that without understanding verses 41-44 I believe we are being a little short sided of the facts of the account of His entry. True the people are celebrating His arrival; singing and laying coats and tree branches on the road in front of His donkey.

The disciples then threw their *cloaks* over the colt, making a seat for Jesus. With this act of entering Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy and affirming his messianic royalty. He came in royal fashion, not as a warring king on a horse or in a chariot, but as a gentle and peaceable king on a donkey’s colt. They even honored Jesus by “**spread[ing] their garments in the way; and cut[ing] down branches from the trees, and strew[ing] them**” on the road in front of His Donkey.

The truth of the account is that while everyone else was having a good time Jesus’ heart was breaking for His people. With His Holy Eyes He looked upon the City of Jerusalem and saw the sin and He experienced a **Holy Heartbreak** over what He knew about His people.

I believe the same is true today when Jesus looks down from His Holy seat next to His Holy Father and sees what is going on in His church.

Let’s look at what broke Jesus’ heart there in Jerusalem and see if that might not be happening today.

### **Jesus was Heartbroken Because of the...**

#### **I. Hardened Heart’s of His People**

- A. As Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem He could hear all the singing, praising and cheering, yet He knew the

hearts of those who were singing and spreading branches and clothes in the way

1. He came close –close to the ones he desperately wanted to help, but they would not receive His help
    - a) He looked upon them; actually he looked over the whole group of them in all of their outward yet shallow joy
    - b) And he wept – His heart broke because he knew what was to come
      - (1) When He looked down upon the city
      - (2) He likely saw the gate where they would reject him
      - (3) He looked and saw the hill upon which they would crucify Him
      - (4) Maybe even the tomb they would place Him
  2. That is why the words he spoke ring so loudly, ***“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes”***
    - a) Jesus was saying that the way to peace was standing at their door, but they would not let him in because of the hardness of their hearts
    - b) They preferred to move forward in their own understanding, in their own desires, and in their own strength
    - c) The last part of the name Jerusalem – ‘*salem*’ means *peace*
    - d) **So the heart of citizens of the *City of Peace* was so hard that they could not recognize the *Prince of Peace***
    - e) The King of the Jews was a stranger in his own house, a fact the apostle confirms, ***“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”*** (Jn 1:11).
- B. The sad truth is that this could be said of many churches today
1. Jesus comes to the church, us – you and me - His people,

2. Yet all too often He is left standing outside while we are doing out thing inside
3. He is left outside because we will not let Him in
4. He is looking at His people
  - a) They sound like they know Me
  - b) They look like they know Me
  - c) They are even doing religious things in My Name but remember that He said, ***“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”*** (Matt 7:22-23)
  - d) Yet there He stands outside looking in and crying
5. He knows each of our hearts this morning
  - a) Maybe he is even saying, *“If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But, alas, it is hidden from you.*
  - b) Church, Jesus has an invitation for us, ***“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”*** (Rev. 3:20)
6. In Luke 13:34 Jesus is recorded as saying, ***“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!”***
  - a) Now we are not stoning the prophets, or the pastor praise God, but many within the church body are not allowing God to bring them under His wings, either
  - b) Folks the one and only God wants to be your God and, as such, give you peace, joy, grace, mercy, help, strength, and much more

- c) Jesus said it along time ago, but it is as sure today as ever, **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”** [29]. **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** [30] **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.** Matthew 11:28-30
  - d) Oh, how He wants to take our burdens, but we must recognize our need.
  - e) Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, pointed Israel to the way, as he spoke for God
    - (1) **“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”** . 2 Chron. 7:14
- C. Why continue to break Jesus Heart?
- 1. Why continue to let Him weep?
  - 2. Why not come to His out stretched arms?
  - 3. Both Jesus and You could be rejoicing!
  - 4. Jesus because he see that His people walk in obedience and fellowship of His word
  - 5. You because you have peace and joy unspeakable!
  - 6. Child of God, come back to Jesus and find rest!

**Jesus was heartbroken not only because of the hardened hearts of His people, He was Heartbroken Because of the...**

## **II. Spiritual Blindness of the Lost**

- A. Again and again Jesus came to those who did not know Him because He had a mission to do...
  - 1. Luke 19:10 states, **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**
  - 2. His desire was and is that those who do not have a relationship with the Father come to Him to establish one.
  - 3. As Jesus walked this earth he preformed all kinds of miracles:

- a) He cured people from sickness and physical disabilities,
  - b) Cast out demons,
  - c) Even raise from the dead
  - d) But listen to the word's of the Apostle John, "**And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.**" (John 21:25)
  - e) Jesus' mission we very clear, to show that He was the Messiah, the Savior, the One that should come and save Israel, even, the whole world from sin!
  - f) As He entered the city Matthew tells us that they were singing, "**Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest**" (Matt 21:9)
    - (1) Hosanna means = "Save Now"
    - (2) They sang "Save now" to their savior on Sunday but cried "**crucify him, crucify him**" by Friday.
  - g) If they could only have seen, but they chose not too
    - (1) The old saying, *There is none so blind as those who will not see, was true of them.*
    - (2) All they needed for peace was standing right there!
- B. Their Savior was setting there upon that donkey and weeping with His Holy Heart broken because of the lost condition of His people.
- C. The truth is, however, that Jesus comes to the Church today trying to

**Jesus was heartbroken not only because of the *hardened hearts of His people*, and the *Spiritual Blindness of the Lost He was Heartbroken Because of the...***

**III. Missed Opportunities of His People** Vv. 43-44

- A. Jerusalem has not improved the day of her opportunities

1. He wept, and said, *If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, that while the gospel is preached to you, and salvation offered you by it; if you would had taken the time to think for yourself, and understand the things which belong unto thy peace, making peace with God, and the securing of your own spiritual and eternal welfare—but you don’t know that today is the day of thy visitation,*”
2. When Jesus weeps, maybe even looking into the very gate of the temple He will soon enter and cleanse one last time, he pleads for her peace
  - a) Not a military peace at the end of a bloody war, but peace with their God
  - b) That is his ultimate goal, but their eyes are blinded
  - c) When Jesus refuses to be the Messiah they want, they will kill him
  - d) As a result, the vengeance of God will fall upon the very stones of this city.
  - e) Within forty years, after Jesus said these words, they came true.
    - (1) In a.d. 66, the Jews revolted against Roman control.
    - (2) Three years later Titus, son of the emperor Vespasian, was sent to crush the rebellion.
    - (3) Roman soldiers attacked Jerusalem and broke through the northern wall but still couldn’t take the city.
    - (4) Finally they laid siege to it, and in a.d. 70 they were able to enter the severely weakened city and burn it.
    - (5) Six hundred thousand Jews were killed during Titus’s onslaught.
    - (6) This would occur as judgment *because* though some of the people believed (such as the disciples and other faithful followers), most *did not recognize the time of God’s coming* to them.

- B. But God did not turn away from the Jewish people He continues to offer salvation to both Jews and Gentiles.
- C. But this day, His prophetic warning gives way to tears.
  - 1. Surely this would have confused his disciples,
  - 2. That is if any of them even noticed – being so busy trying not to be counted as being with Him
- D. This should have been Jerusalem's crowning day, the day of all days, because the King of all kings had entered her
  - 1. Instead they would reject their King and forfeit the peace He would have brought to them
  - 2. Jerusalem, "the city of peace," would become the object of war and destruction
- E. **ILL:** Kublai Khan was a Mongolian leader who ruled China successfully for many years. Unlike others who had ruled China Khan ruled by investing in his people and ultimately built one of the greatest empires of 13 century.

In 1269 Khan sent a request from Peking to Rome for "*a hundred wise men of the Christian religion...And so I shall be baptized, and when I shall be baptized all my baron and great men will be baptized, and their subjects baptized, and so there will be more Christian here than there are in your parts.*" The Mongols were then wavering in the choice of a religion. It might have been, as Khan forecast, the greatest mass religious movement the world has ever seen. The history of all Asia could have been changed.

But what actually happened? Pope Gregory X answered by sending two Dominican friars. They got as far as Armenia, could endure no longer and returned home. So passed the greatest missionary opportunity in the history of the church.

- F. **Jesus' Heart was broken because His people were about to miss the opportunity to change the course of their history.**

