



Message Reflections

April 5, 2020

“I Am Exalted”

This week's message takes us to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. As I read this passage, I cannot help but picture the view that is seen from the top of the Mount of Olives. Even though the Jewish Temple is no longer there, the same temple mount can still be seen today (which currently has two Muslim structures on it) and is still impressive. The Mount of Olives stands about 200 feet higher than the Temple did, and the sides of the valley descend rapidly on either side.

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus stood at this place and looked out over Jerusalem. It seems apparent that He knew exactly what was about to take place. He knew what was ahead of Him, and He willingly stayed the course.

I cannot imagine what it was like for Jesus to walk through the crowds of screaming people. For everyone else it must have seemed like a great moment of celebration, but for Jesus, He knew that His true work of salvation was not what this joyful crowd really wanted. In fact, they would change their chants very quickly into crying out for his crucifixion.

In Luke's account of Palm Sunday, it is recorded that when Jesus approached Jerusalem and the temple, He wept over it.

Take a moment to read Luke's account (**Luke 19:41-44**) which is not included in Matthew's Gospel and was not read during today's message.

When you read about Jesus' emotions around His entry into Jerusalem, how does it help you to understand the mission He was about to complete for us?

In that same passage, Jesus mourns over the future loss that will happen in Jerusalem. We know that His predictions came true in A.D. 70 when Rome destroyed the Temple. Jesus says, "If you, even you, had only known of this day what would bring you peace...?"

Have you experienced the peace that Jesus is talking about; that He promised to His people through His completed work?

This story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem offers so many parts to reflect on, and I hope you fully engage with this Biblical narrative. If you haven't already, please take some time with those around you today to answer the questions at the end of the message.

- How is my faith doing in the midst of today's challenges?
- How am I (and my family) handling the tension of these circumstances? (moving toward Jesus or away)
- What good things are happening in my life right now?

God Bless,

Todd