

Luke Chapter 19

V: 1 Jesus was passing through Jericho, he'd just healed two blind men – possibly with Zacchaeus watching from a distance, moving from lower to upper Jericho in the process, moving towards Jerusalem.



- Jericho means “moon”, it is also called the City of Palms, it's an oasis with a large spring which is located about 17 miles East Jerusalem. 1 week from the cross.
- Upper Jericho, close to Jerusalem was also the site of Herod the Great's winter palace, complete with gymnasium and pools. It was currently occupied by his son Archelaus who was “tetrarch” or ruler of 4th part.

V: 2 Zacchaeus: Greek form of the Hebrew name which means “*Pure*” or “*Justified*.”

- Chief of the tax collectors – Jews hired by the Romans as tax collectors. They were generally corrupt and universally hated, and it says he was wealthy.
- There was a minimum quota required by Herod / Romans – they were allowed to keep anything above that, they were ruthless and had the backing of the Romans to collect or enforce.

Luke 3:12-13 “¹²Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

V: 3-4 Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus, he was curious to see Him but didn't want to get caught up in the crowd where it would be dangerous for him, and he probably wouldn't be able to see anyway because of his stature.

- The Holy Spirit was working in him, and he just wanted to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus “ran” & “climbed” – dignified men didn't do such things...

Luke 18:17 “Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”

- Sycamore trees in Israel are a blend of fig and mulberry trees, large leaves, they grow big and produce lots of fruit. They were often planted by the roads to offer both shade and a welcome snack.
- Seeing the route / road that Jesus was taking he ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore tree that would offer him a good view as Jesus walked by.
- His heart is to see Jesus and he does what he thinks he needs to do to see Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

V: 5 Jesus walks along the path until He's at the spot where Zachaeus is over head and He looks up and tells Zachaeus to come down because He's coming to lunch at his house today.

- Jesus got invited to a number of peoples home, but this is the only instance where Jesus invites Himself to some ones house for a meal. He did so, knowing Zacchaeus' heart already.

2 Chronicles 6:30 “... For You alone know the hearts of the sons of men.”

“I must stay at your house...”

John 4:4 “And He must needs go through Samaria...”

- Jesus had a divine appointment with Zacchaeus, just as He had an appointment with the woman at the well, and just as He had an appointment with each of us that believe in Him. All part of His Divine plan...

V: 6 Zacchaeus responds; he is obedient to the word of God. Jesus said make haste, Zacchaeus made haste, Jesus said come down and Zacchaeus came down.

Matthew 4:20 (Peter & Andrew) “They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

Mathew 4:22 (James & John) “And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.”

Matthew 9:9 “As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He aid to him, “follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

- Zacchaeus was no longer worried about the crowd; and he received Jesus joyfully.
- Zacchaeus was willing, obedient, joyful, & fearless – starting to sound like faith.

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

The Bible declares:

James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”

Proverbs 3:34 / James 4:6 / 1 Peter 5:5 “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

V: 7 “*They*” – likely the religious leaders, the Pharisees and Scribes, but maybe also the people in the crowd as well – publicans were hated.

- “*They*” were right, Jesus had gone to be the guest of a man who was a sinner – just like all of us.

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

V: 8 It’s already assumed that they were having a meal together; when Zacchaeus stands up from the dinner table – he’s drawing everyone’s attention – witnesses to his statement:

1. ½ his goods he will give to the poor.
 2. Anything taken by false accusation or fraud he will restore 4 fold.
- Some people have a difficult with letting go of or giving back 10%, here Zacchaeus joyfully gives over 50% - an indication that his heart has truly been touched.
 - Notice that Jesus doesn’t correct Zacchaeus and say whoa, hang on buddy, we’re talking 100% (like the rich, young ruler) - because Zacchaeus’ riches didn’t have the same hold on him.

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, “you have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- Zacchaeus’ actions portray his faith, which Jesus affirms.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

V: 9 If anybody knows whether Zacchaeus is saved or not, it would be Jesus! Jesus declares that salvation has come to this house declaring that Zacchaeus is a true son of Abraham.

- Jesus didn’t make this statement because Zacchaeus had purchased his salvation but because Zacchaeus had demonstrated an inward change of heart – that his goods and money were no longer his god, Jesus had taken their place in his heart.

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

- Zacchaeus had made a decision to set mammon aside and serve God.
- Zacchaeus was behaving like a true son of Abraham.

John 8:39 “They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, if ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.”

- Zacchaeus proved himself to be a true son of Abraham, because he did what Abraham did:

John 8:56 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.”

Speaking of Abraham:

Genesis 15:6 “And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

“Works of Abraham”

John 6:29 “... this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

- This pretty well describes Zacchaeus! A son of Abraham, a true son of Abraham.

Romans 2:28-29 “²⁸For he is not a Jew, who is one outwardly; nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

- What a contrast to the rich young ruler who initially sought Jesus out, but went away, with all of his goods & wealth, but with sadness and emptiness of soul, and walked away not saved.
- The joyful conversion of Zacchaeus is a fulfillment of what Jesus spoke about in Luke 18:27

Luke 18:27 “And he said, the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

- Zacchaeus was a rich man, Jesus had just said that it was impossible for rich men to enter the kingdom of God – Zacchaeus humbled himself before the Lord, and did not let his wealth come between his soul and his God.
- In a way Zacchaes just stepped through the eye of a needle right there in front of everybody.

V: 10 Key verse in this Gospel:

- Jesus is declaring that salvation has come to this house – in fulfillment of His mission, because the Son of Man, Jesus has come to seek and save the lost – hence he “must abide” in Zacchaeus’ house today.
- This is a response to their murmurings, this is why Jesus came to begin with, to save us!

Matthew 9:12-13 “¹²When Jesus heard that, He said to them, those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

John 3:17 “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

V: 11 Jesus was making a correction:

- Jesus, knowing that His disciples and others were looking on and listening He addresses the rest of the people gathered. Lowering their expectations.

Luke 18:31-33 “³¹Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³²For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

- Jesus is thinking about **Psalm 22**, and **Isaiah 53**, **Zechariah 9**, and **Daniel 9** where it says that “**Messiah will be cut off...**”. Dots that hadn’t been connected yet.
- The disciples are thinking this is the hour, we’re going to rid ourselves of the Romans, we’re going to establish the kingdom of heaven, peace will reign on the earth, and we get to help rule!

V: 12-14 Jesus speaks this “parable” that bears a striking resemblance to current events at that time:

- As Jesus comes out of Zacchaeus’ house, no doubt being a rich man, his house was in view of Herod’s winter palace, occupied by Archelaus the Tetrarch.
- Archelaus had the title of Tetrarch, ruler of the 4th part, but he wanted the title of “king”, but he couldn’t just take that title because he was under the rule of Rome, under the authority of Caesar.

- Archelaus went to Rome to appear before the senate in an attempt to gain the title of king. After Archelaus departed, the Jews sent emissaries to Rome requesting that Caesar deny Archelaus this title, because they didn't want this man to rule over them.
 - Archelaus was denied his request, and having heard of his subjects communication with Rome, no doubt came back eager to settle the score.
 - A parable is typically a fictional story, something the people can relate to and learn a lesson from: This one is based on current culture and events at the time.
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- So Jesus says a certain "nobleman" went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom.
 - He calls his ten servants and issues each one a "mina," and tells them to "do business till I come" - "occupy" might be a good way to put it.
 - A "mina" is roughly the equivalent of about 3 months pay.
 - *This is parable is similar but not the same as the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 where the servants are given 5, 2, & 1 talents respectively, which deals with abilities, giftings, and stewardship. In this parable each servant is given the same amount, 1 "mina" each. Similar, but not the same.*
 - This parable is dealing with diligence, the stewardship of the things that belong to God.
 - The command is to occupy, to stay busy about the Lord's work, not to try to figure out when He's coming back, or to guess at it – to work as if He's coming back today!
 - Jesus isn't going to Jerusalem to be crowned as King, but bear a crown of thorns! He, like the parable will soon be going to a far away place to receive a kingdom. Then, after a while, He will come back!
 - Sadly in Jerusalem the citizens will demonstrate their hatred towards him and declare that they will not have "this man" to rule over us. This is what the world generally says today – but He is coming back to rule, to reign, and to judge.
 - Jesus spoke several similar parables in Matthew, Mark, and Luke emphasizing a master or king going away, leaving gifts, talents, and mina's with His servants then one day returning to reckon with them.

Paul describes one aspect of "occupying."

Romans 12:6-9 ⁶"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷or

ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” (1 Corinthians 12)

- The Master parables all pretty much end the same way, with an accounting of stewardship.

Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me, to give to every man according to his work.”

V: 15 There will be a day of reckoning: You can allow Jesus to pay the price for your sins for you upon the cross, or you can pay for it yourself throughout eternity. Your choice!

- We can accept Jesus as the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, where He takes our sin upon Himself at Calvary where the judgment & wrath of God is poured out upon Him. Jesus taking our place and receiving the judgment for our sins upon Himself that we deserve.
- Or we can atone for it ourselves with our own personal judgment for sin. A person who takes that option is upon their physical death cast into hell awaiting that final judgment at the Great White Throne described in **Revelation 20:11-15**.
- Here the King / Noble man says what have you done with what I gave you?

V: 16-17 As each of the servants gives an account, the Lord is giving each a portion of the kingdom.

- This speaks of the kingdom age when the Lord returns to establish His kingdom on earth, and the amount of authority He gives to his servants who will rule and reign with him in the millennial kingdom.

In Heaven we have the song of the redeemed, which only the church can sing:

Revelation 5:9-10 “⁹And they sang a new song, saying; “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰and have made us kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 20:4 “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

2 Timothy 2:12 “If we endure / suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him...”

V: 18-19 The next servant, who comes back with less but is still honored and receives the same reward in proportion to what he gained.

- Just like the other servants in the parable of the talents:

Matthew 25:21 “His lord said to him, “well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

V: 20-23 Like the parable of the talents, there is the one type of servant who did nothing and blamed his master for his own failure to do anything.

- This servant was unfaithful because his heart was not right towards his master. He saw his master as a hard man who was demanding and unfair. This servant had no love for his master.
- This servant is described as a “wicked servant”.

V:22 “... *You knew...*” And he’s being held accountable for what he knew.

Romans 1:18-19 “¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

James 4:17 “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Luke 12:47-48 “And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸.... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

- This man did nothing, he didn’t even take it to the bank and deposit it where at least he would gain the interest and have something to bring.

V: 24-26 Those that have shall be given more, those that don’t have what little they have will be taken away.

- What have we done? What are we doing with what God has given us?
- One day we’re all going to have to give an answer to the Lord, it will be required of us.

John 15:2 “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away...”

V: 27 Just like the nobleman in the parable, they did not want Him to rule over them.

John 19:15 “But they cried out, away with him! Away with him! Crucify him! Pilate said to them, shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, we have no king but Caesar.”

- In other words we will not have this man to rule over us!
- Like the parable Jesus will come back to take vengeance upon a Christ rejecting, rebellious world. He is coming to judge the world, those that did not want Him to rule over them.

Revelation 19:11-16 “¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written, that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And he Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And he has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**”

Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus! (Are you ready?)

V: 28 Jesus finishes teaching them the lesson about stewardship and continues on his journey “*up*” (3,352') to Jerusalem – “He went ahead” - “He went before” – leading His disciples.



- Jesus is about a week away from the cross and He's not shying away from it, He's pressing into it.

Luke 9:51 “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.”

Vv: 10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- That salvation can only come through the cross of Jesus – which is why He's headed to Jerusalem. He's on a mission.

V: 29 Jesus moves from Jericho, up to Bethany then to Bethpage, climbing the Mount of Olives. (Map)

1. **Bethany:** “House of affliction” - el-Aizariya, Arabic



2. **Bethphage**: “House of unripe figs.” “At-Tur” part of East Jerusalem.

- There is an interesting prophecy concerning Jesus and His return to the Mount of Olives. Because there are two lines of Messianic prophecy, and they need to be kept in their proper order.

Zechariah 14:4 “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall split in two from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

- This is just a matter of practicality, passing through Bethany 1st then continuing West to Bethphage on His way to Jerusalem.

V: 30 As He’s approaching Bethany not quite getting over the crest of the hill, He dispatches two un-named disciples to fetch a donkey, not only demonstrating His supernatural knowledge, omniscience, but also in fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.

Omniscience:

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

Fulfilling prophecy:

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

V: 31 Jesus sends the two disciples ahead to get a donkey and says “If any man asks you...” (Like they wouldn’t?) Donkey owners, probably believers.

- “The” “Lord” (Kurios) as opposed to “my” Lord, or “a” Lord – this is specific, like a definite article.
 - Recognizing the Lordship of Jesus, and His right to take the animals or anything else.
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- Between verses 31 & 32 Matthew adds a comment of explanation that is not included here in Luke.

Matthew 21:4-5 “⁴All this was done, that it might be fulfilled with was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵tell the daughter of Zion, behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

- Matthew is quoting directly from **Zechariah 9:9**, describing actually the fulfillment of it.
- This is part of the preparation for what is called the “Triumphant Entry” – where Jesus coordinates an official reception.
- Here He orchestrates a grand reception, a high profile event.
- Why? **Romans 1:20** “... so that they are without excuse.”
- The Jews couldn’t say “if we had only had a chance, an opportunity to receive Him.”
- This is His time!
- Two other Messianic prophecies are fulfilled at this time as well.
- 1. **Psalm 118:24-25** “²⁴This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save now (Hosanna), I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.”
- 2. **Daniel 9:24-25** “²⁴Seventy weeks are determined for your people (Jews) and for your holy city, (Jerusalem) to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. (Messiah, Jesus) ²⁵Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; ⁽⁶⁹⁾ the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

(69 weeks / 483 years / 173,880 days)

Daniel 9:26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”

- Happening on the exact day the was prophesied.
- This is part of 2nd line of Messianic prophecy – that the Messiah will suffer and die for the sins of the people.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 (page 783) Sir Robert Anderson, The Coming Prince.

Nehemiah 2:7-8 “⁷Moreover I said unto the king, if it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come unto Judah; ⁸And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he

may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.”

- From the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8) on March 14, 445 BC. To the coming of the Messiah would be 69 weeks of years. (Jewish Vs Babylonian calendars) or 483 years. 173,880 days later on April 6, 32 AD Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey being proclaimed as King by the people.

V: 32-34 They that were sent, went...

Matthew 21:6 *“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,”*

- Obedience! – I wonder if there was a sense of excitement, if they hurried to see the fulfillment?
- Jesus anticipated the question, gave them the answer, and everything worked out.

V: 35-36 Ass / donkey. A kings transportation? No. A stark contrast to everyone's expectations.

1. **1 Kings 1:33** - Solomon rode David's mule as a symbol of his right to be King.
2. Roman rulers typically came in on a black stallion, decked out in gold armor, accompanied with a display of power.
3. Jesus came at this time on a donkey with a mission of humility leading up to Calvary.
4. The next time, Jesus' return will be on a white horse, with a sword, eyes of fire, making war.

Revelation 19:11-16 *“¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written, that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And he Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And he has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**”*

- They placed their clothes on the colt, and on the roadway / path leading to Jerusalem: an act of worship to their king, homage to be sure; but sadly for the wrong reason.
- According to the other Gospels, they also cut down palm branches, waving them and laying them along the way. (Palm Sunday)
- The ensign / symbol of the Maccabean revolt was the palm branch, which combined with their other actions revealed the peoples desire for a king that would deliver Israel from Rome.

V: 37-38 As Jesus was cresting over the Mount of Olives down towards Gethsemane, the Kidron valley, and the Temple just beyond, the disciples begin to rejoice, recounting the miracles and praising God for the mighty works they've seen.

Matthew 21:9 “And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

“³⁸*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (True King!)

- The One who “*comes in the name of the Lord*” is an admission or statement that this person speaks for and comes in the authority of the Lord, which in this instance is the word “*kurios*” – the NT equivalent of Jehovah or Yahweh.

“*Hosanna*” = “save now” **Psalm 118:25**

- 3rd prophesy fulfilled.

Psalm 118:24-25 “²⁴This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save now (Hosanna), I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.”

V: 39-40 Pharisees, were in the crowd amongst the multitude – called on Jesus to rebuke His disciples for blasphemy – referring to Jesus as the Messiah, God, the Son of God – but Jesus refused.

- Can't rebuke them for speaking the truth.
- If the disciples had held back their praise, the stones would have cried out!
- That would have been cool to hear!

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

- This is pretty consistent with the Pharisees and religious leaders, doing whatever they can to keep people from coming to Jesus.

Matthew 23:13 “But woe to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.”

V: 41-42 Just over the crest of the Mount of Olives, it opens up to where you can see the city, Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Weeping in the midst of “triumph”.

- **Church of Tears:** (Dominus Flevit / “The Lord wept.”) 1953-1955.
- This site was un-marked until the time of the crusaders who built a small chapel that was destroyed when the city fell to the Turks, then a mosque, then a house, then another church.
- “Church of Tears” Mt. of Olives. 
- They didn't recognize what was going on all around them, they didn't see their need for salvation – they missed their opportunity as a nation and it would cost them dearly!
- I pray none of us make the same mistake - recognize Him, receive Him, and allow Him to be glorified in your life!

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For he says, “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- Jesus knew that because they were going to reject Him; He knew what would come upon them as a result of not knowing the day of their visitation, not receiving Jesus as their Messiah.
- They would be held accountable:

Luke 12:48 “... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required...”

- The Jews had all the Messianic prophecies that described Jesus to a “T” - when the Magi came into Jerusalem, following the star, looking for the real King of Israel - Herod turned to the religious leaders who told him the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. They knew and did nothing about it.
- The prophecies of a virgin birth in Genesis and Isaiah, the Prophecies in Isaiah 35 that he would heal the sick and the lame, restore sight to the blind. Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies, too many innumerate here - all ignored, willfully

rejected when Jesus came on the scene and did all the things that were described! For crying out loud! He raised people from the dead! All ignored.

V: 42b “*Your day*” - the appointed time when you were supposed to recognize your Savior and Messiah - you didn't, you biffed it, you rejected your longed for Messiah.

- Because of that:

“... *now they are hidden from your eyes*”

Romans 11:25 “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

V: 43-44 This is speaking of what would be a future event at that time, when approximately 40 years after the time of our Lord's Triumphant entry. Israel would be in rebellion against the Roman Empire, they would respond by sending Titus, the emperor's son to re-conquer Israel and Jerusalem. In the process they would lay siege to Jerusalem doing exactly what Jesus here describes.

- Josephus in the “Wars of the Jews” records the events of the siege of Jerusalem. Starvation, cannibalism, marauding gangs taking food and supplies, murdering.
- The Romans were cruel to be sure, but Josephus records that more Jews were killed by brother Jews than by the Romans!

All because:

V: 44b “... *because you did not know the time of your visitation.*”

- “The “hidden face of God”.

Deuteronomy 31:16-18 “¹⁶And the Lord said to Moses, behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. ¹⁷Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, “Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?” ¹⁸And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.”

Ezekiel 39:27-29 (Turn to / read)

Ezekiel 39:29 “Neither will I hide my face any more from the: for I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God.”

- The question here is: what caused Israel's spiritual blindness? Disobedience to God's Word.

Referencing their captivity in Babylon; Jeremiah prophesies:

Jeremiah 29:19 "Because they have not heeded My Words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the LORD."

1. Their leaders were not interested in the truth; they were only concerned with protecting their own interests. They were blinded by their own greed.
2. Their leaders didn't keep their charge:

Nehemiah 8:5-8 "⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up: ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, and Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Hozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

3. Their spiritual leaders had robbed them of the truth of God's Word giving their own word, and had substituted man made traditions in place of God's word.
- Bill Johnson, Bob Bell, Rick Warren, Mark Driscoll, Joel Olstein, and Joyce Meyers just to name a few.

Mark 7:6-9 "⁶... well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things you do. ⁹And he said to them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition."

What is the cure? God's Word!

Psalms 19:7-8 "⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Acts 20:27-28 "²⁷For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd / feed the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

V: 44 70 AD, Jerusalem is leveled and burned, the Temple destroyed, devastating horrors and atrocities to men, women, and children.

Hebrews 2:3 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by them that heard Him;”

- All because they didn’t know the time of their visitation, because they rejected their Messiah.

V: 45-46 The 2nd time Jesus cleanses the Temple area:

- 1st stop was the temple, not the Antonia Fortress. He was dealing with the Jews not the Romans.
- House of prayer.

Isaiah 56:6-7 “⁶Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and takes hold of my covenant; ⁷even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.”

- Den of thieves

Jeremiah 7:11 “Is this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, even I, have seen it, says the Lord.”

1 Peter 4:17 “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”

V: 47-48 Jesus resumed doing what He always did, teaching, preaching, and healing – doing what they, the priests, the Pharisees, and Scribes should have been doing.

Jeremiah 23:3-4 “³And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, says the Lord.”

- The religious leaders on the other hand only resented Jesus all the more, wanting to kill Him but fearing the people.

“For all the people were very attentive to hear Him.”

John 10:27 *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:”*