

Luke 19: 41 – Jesus weeps over Jerusalem



The crowd cheered Him on as He rode the donkey towards Jerusalem. Jesus, however, wept over the city because He could see the destruction that lay before it. In AD70 that destruction came to pass, when, following a Jewish rebellion, the Romans devastated the city and destroyed its Temple.

This was not the first time Jesus lamented over Jerusalem. In Luke 13: 34 we read His anguished words, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets, you stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times have I wanted to put my arms round all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let Me!”

I believe Jesus weeps over our cities today; cities bombed to ruins, cities where pollution makes the air itself a hazard to life, cities darkened by the smoke of burning forests, cities under lockdown because of the coronavirus. The sufferings of so many cities today are caused or exacerbated because of human wickedness and folly. Humankind still ignores the voices of the prophets and then faces the consequences.

The good news is that, knowing what lay ahead, Jesus rode on into Jerusalem. He did not stay away from the city nor abandon it. And neither does He stand aloof from the sufferings of our cities today. He became flesh in order to share our human life to the full and He still shares our joy and our pain, our delights and our sorrows.

Jesus went on into the city, to face the cross. There is still more good news for us, because we know the cross was not the end. Beyond it came resurrection. The love that made Jesus weep, the love that took Him on into Jerusalem to suffer and die, was the love that raised Him from the tomb. That love never fails and never ends. Therein lies our Easter hope.

A Prayer: *Almighty God, I lift up to You in prayer my family and friends, my church, my locality and the whole world. Thank You because Your love is great enough to encompass all You have made. Thank You because there is nothing that can ever separate me from Your love in Jesus Christ. AMEN*

Image: from St. Takla Haymanout Coptic Orthodox Website, Egypt