



Terms Of Peace, Luke 19:37-44

Terms Of Peace

- One of Rembrandt's paintings of the face of Christ depicts what Jesus may have been going through in our Scripture this morning
 - If you covered one of Christ's eyes in the picture, his face had a sparkle of joy and hope
 - But if you covered his other eye, he looks like he was about to cry
 - And if you tried to look at both eyes, there were both emotions: first one then the other, then mingled in a beautiful and tragic expression

Terms Of Peace

- That's the face and mind of Jesus coming down the road to the Mount of Olives that leads to Jerusalem knowing of His rejection and crucifixion ahead
 - In one eye we see the sparkle: "Yes, I am the king who comes in the name of the Lord. This is my city. These are my subjects. Oh, how I love this place and these people."
 - But in the other eye we see a tear: "No, there will be no reign in Jerusalem, no peace, no justice, no coronation day—at least not now. I have one week to live, and even that week will not be kingly."
- Keep this in mind as we read our Scripture

Scripture

- **Luke 19:37-40 NIV**, 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:
 - 38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
 - **Zechariah 9:9 NIV**, 9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Scripture

- **Luke 19:37-40 NIV** 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”
 - Rebuke in Scripture - To sternly correct, reprove, or warn someone regarding sinful behavior, with the ultimate purpose of restoration and repentance rather than merely expressing anger
 - 40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”
 - Creation itself will worship God, if people do not

Scripture

- **Luke 19:41-44 NIV**, 41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace (*terms of peace*)—but now it is hidden from your eyes.
 - 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Terms Of Peace

- What were the terms of peace for Adam and Eve in the Garden?
 - Obedience to their Creator
- What were the terms of peace for the Nation of Israel?
 - Obedience to the Law give them by their Creator
- What are the terms of peace for us today?
 - **Acts 16:29-31 NIV**, 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

Terms Of Peace

- Our text today has three levels that can help us understand what is going on verses
 - The bottom level is Jerusalem's ignorance: in **Vs. 44** they are ignorant of the time of their visitation; in **Vs. 42** they are ignorant of the things that make for peace
 - Biblical ignorance - a lack of knowledge, understanding, or awareness of God's laws, will, or spiritual truths, rather than just intellectual limitations

Terms Of Peace

- The text has three levels that will help us understand what is going on verses
 - The second level, based on the first, is that terrible judgment is coming upon Jerusalem: the city will be leveled and its people dashed to the ground (*Vs. 43, 44*)
 - The third level is Jesus' response to all this: he weeps and expresses his willingness to make peace if they but only acknowledged the terms of peace
- Keep these three levels in your mind as and look for their application to our lives

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- In the Old Testament the term "visitation" was used for God coming to his people, either to judge or to save
 - **Isaiah 29:5-6 ESV**, But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff. And in an instant, suddenly, you will be visited by the Lord of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire.
 - God is coming to bring judgement on Israel's enemies

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- In the Old Testament the term "visitation" was used for God coming to his people, either to judge or to save
 - **Luke 1:67-72 ESV**, 67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
 - 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us”
 - Our greatest enemy today is sin, rebellion, pride

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- The visitation of God here is to save his people, specifically to save them through the Messiah, Jesus Christ
- An important question for us to answer: Why does Jerusalem not know the time of God's visitation?
 - **Vs. 42 ESV**, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."
 - **Vs. 44 NIV**, They did not recognize "the time of God's coming to you."
 - **ESV**, "you did not know the time of your visitation"

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- Why did Jerusalem not know the king had come?
 - Did Jesus not tell them and show them by His miracles that only God can do?
 - Was it because they never were told of God's visitation?
 - **John 10:24-27 NIV**, 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
 - 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- Why did Jerusalem not know the king had come? Did Jesus not tell them and show them by His miracles that only God can do?
 - Was it because they never were told of God's visitation?
 - **John 10:34-39 NIV**, "Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

The Ignorance of Jerusalem

- Terms of Peace, Hear Jesus say, “O that you agree to these terms that I have set before you with my life, that you acknowledged their rightness and accepted them into your life as what governs your conduct.”
- So the reason Jerusalem is guilty and liable of judgment is not because it never heard of God's visitation or his terms of peace
 - But because as Paul in **Romans 1:18 NIV**, 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness (*unbelief*)”

The Present and Coming Judgment

- Why did Jerusalem reject the king's terms of peace?
 - The answer is found in **Vs. 42**: "O that you knew the terms of peace, but *(after 3 ½ years of proof)* now they are hidden from your eyes."
 - It's all over for Jerusalem because of the hardness of their hearts and God has already passed sentence upon them
 - **Matthew 23:37-38 NIV**, "How often would I have gathered your children together . . . but you would not. Behold your house is forsaken and desolate."
- Rejecting God's terms of peace has dramatic consequences

The Present and Coming Judgment

- **Exodus 9:12 NIV**, 12 But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.
- God has given Jerusalem up to their own sin
 - And so, they are irreparably blind, and all the terms of peace are hidden from their eyes because of their hard heartedness
 - They became spiritually calloused
 - The hen with outspread and beckoning wings has become a roaring lion

The Present and Coming Judgment

- There is a "too late" in dealing with God
 - He may stretch out his wings to you and beckon you again and again to take refuge in his mercy, but there will come a point when the beckoning grows muted, and the sentence is passed, and it is too late
- No one in the Bible warned of hell and judgement as often or as vividly as Jesus did
 - “How often would I have gathered your children together . . . but you would not. *(Matthew 23:37-38)*

Accept God's Terms of Peace!

- Now all of that is very bleak and sober and fearful
- But now we come to the third level in our text and conclude with words of hope
 - I believe the main reason to speak of hell and eternal judgement is to motivate people to hope in God and cherish his mercy more intensely
 - Luke did not record this text for us just to inform us about Jerusalem's doom, but more importantly to encourage us that Jesus Christ is always eager and willing to make peace with anyone who will accept the terms of peace he offers

Accept God's Terms of Peace!

- After Jesus had died and risen from the dead and returned to his father in heaven, he continues his peace offer to the world through his ambassadors
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:18-19 NIV**, 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

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 - That is just another way of saying, "O that you would accept God's terms of peace!"

Accept God's Terms of Peace!

- That's the main message of our Scripture today is: The king has come to his rebel subjects and offered peace terms while the time lasts
 - The terms of peace are simple:
 - Lay down your arms, especially the weapons of self-righteousness and self-sufficiency and willful pride
 - Admit your defeat, stop fighting God
 - Accept your full and free pardon (*total amnesty*)
 - And swear your allegiance to the new king in your life

Terms Of Peace

- **2nd Corinthians 6: 1-2 ESV**, 1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,
 - “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”
 - Behold, now (*today*) is the favorable time; behold, now (*today*) is the day of salvation.



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