

Matthew 23:37-39 The Love of Jesus for Jerusalem

Introduction: Jesus had just spoken some of the sharpest, most biting words to the scribes and Pharisees. He now speaks some of the most compassionate and loving words to them. Yet not to them alone, but to all the city of Jerusalem.

In this text we see three things: (1) mercy offered, (2) mercy rejected, and (3) judgment pronounced.

I. Mercy offered.

- A. Can you imagine the emotion felt by Jesus as He spoke the words of verse 37?
 - 1. Can you feel the heartache that he felt?
 - 2. Can you feel the emotional lump in the throat?
- B. He had loved them in the past with a persistent love and had sent the prophets to them repeatedly with a message of mercy.
- C. Even now He loves them in spite of the fact that they have killed His prophets.
 - 1. In spite of the fact that He knows that they will kill Him.
 - 2. In spite of the fact that they will kill His disciples.
- D. How often Jesus tried to gather them to Himself as a hen gathers her chicks.
 - 1. He was not saying “It would have been nice,” but “I have tried. Repeatedly tried.”
 - 2. He wanted them to turn to Him, to trust in Him, to be saved.
 - 3. He had repeatedly extended His mercy to them.

II. Mercy rejected.

- A. The problem was that the Lord's mercy was rejected. (“I would.....but ye would not.”)
- B. Keep in mind that Jesus is Deity God and as God He is supreme.
 - 1. If He had exerted His Almighty power to force them to come, there is no way they could have refused.
 - 2. The only way they could choose to reject Him was for Him to give them a free choice.
- C. He did give them a free choice.
 - 1. He wanted them to come to Him and be saved.
 - 2. He could have forced them to come but didn't.
 - 3. He did everything he could, short of forcing them, to get them to come to be saved.
- D. Of their own free choice they rejected the Lord. (“I would....but ye would not.”)
 - 1. They rejected him as the promised Messiah.
 - 2. They rejected Him as their Savior.
 - 3. They rejected Him as their Lord and King.

III. Judgment pronounced.

- A. This judgment was not pronounced on the individual but on the whole city.
- B. He said, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate,” verse 38.
 - 1. Speaking of the house, He speaks not only of the city but of the whole nation.
 - 2. The city and the nation would become desolate.
 - 3. He did not say so here, but He spoke of the fall of Judah and Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
 - 4. It remained desolate and the nation did not revive until 1948.
 - 5. When Jesus said, “It is left desolate” He meant, “It is left desolate.”
- C. The Jews had rejected Jesus and He would now depart from the city to leave it to its fate, verse 39.
 - 1. He would leave the temple and the city and not return again to engage in public ministry there.
 - 2. He would soon be arrested and brought to the city for trial.
 - 3. His final rejection would take place and He would be crucified.

4. Three days later He would arise from the grave but He would not show His face to the city.
(Only to His disciples.)
- D. He will not return to the city to minister until a new generation of Jews are on the scene who will accept Him, verse 39. (In the end-times.)

IV. The Lord's mercy offered today.

- A. The Lord loves us with the same love that He loved the people of Jerusalem.
- B. Repeatedly He has sent the gospel to us.
 1. Thru the pages of the Holy Bible.
 2. Thru the teaching of the Sunday School.
 3. Thru the preaching from the pulpit.
 4. Thru the personal witness of friends and relatives.
- C. There is no way to imagine how much He loves you.
 1. He wants to keep you out of hell.
 2. He wants to carry you to heaven.
 3. He would say "O _____, _____,how often would I have"
etc. (your name in the blanks.)
- D. God could force you to turn to Jesus, but He won't.
 1. God lays the responsibility of trusting Jesus or rejecting Jesus fully on your shoulders.
 2. If you trust Him, He will save your soul and carry you to Heaven.
 3. If you reject Him you will burn in fire forever. (He would....but you would not.)

Conclusion:

1. I am asking everyone who is unsaved to trust in Jesus right now.
2. I am asking everyone who is saved to crown Jesus King in your life and let Him have His way.

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