

NOVEMBER 18, 2021
Thursday of the 33rd Week in OT
Luke 19: 41-44

“RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT HIM.”

Why people cry, why we cry? We cry because we are sad, lonely, not happy to things around us and what is happening to us or to other people. We cry because we empathize with others. In our gospel today, why Jesus wept? Jesus is approaching Jerusalem, His final destination. All things that the Father commanded Him to do, His passion, death and resurrection will happen there. The final act of obedience, love and sacrifice for others. He wept not because of this, He wept because of non-acceptance of a lot of people, not open to His teachings that will lead to the destruction of Jerusalem. He brings peace but they ignore it, He brings love but they do not want it.

“As he approaches the city he weeps over its tragic end. He implies that, if the city had received him as Lord and King, it might not have met the fate that was in store for it. ‘If only you had known the path to peace this day; but you have completely lost it from view.’ The second half of the word ‘Jeru-salem’ means ‘peace’, shalom. The city had not known the ‘path to peace’, which, of course, was that which led to Jesus, the Prince of Peace and the source of all peace in our lives. The rest of the passage is a prophecy of what in fact is going to happen to the city. We know that it was besieged by the Emperor Titus in the year 70 AD. But, of course, it was the Romans who destroyed the city and its huge Temple, one of the wonders of the ancient world, was reduced to ruins. The Temple was ransacked and its most precious ornaments, including the seven-branched candlestick, were carried off. All of this is sculpturally recorded in the triumphal Arch of Titus erected in Rome to commemorate his victory and which can be seen in the Forum to this day. All this will take place, Jesus says, ‘because you did not recognise the time of

your visitation.’ So many failed to recognise in Jesus as Messiah God’s coming to visit them and rejected him.”¹

My brothers and sisters, everything will takes place according to God’s plan. God always come, visit and be with us, so, we must always recognize Him through events of our lives, and our brothers and sisters who give us hope, love and forgiveness. God speaks to us through these. He cried over Jerusalem and destruction came because He was not accepted by the people, not open and hard-headed to His teachings. Let us, therefore, open our hearts to Him, accept our Lord as our Savior and King, the One who will bring us peace, protection, and glory that nobody can give, only Him and nothing else.

¹ <https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie>