

***REDISCOVER JESUS, PART 72:  
“THE TRIUMPHAL RETURN”  
LUKE 19:28-46  
Ps. Jeff Susila***

**Personal Introduction**

Hi everyone. If you don't know me, I'm Jeff - one of the pastors at HMCC of Jakarta. And it's my privilege to be preaching the Word of God for us today.

**Sermon Series Introduction**

We're currently in Part 72 of our sermon series called "Rediscover Jesus," where we're going through the Gospel of Luke together.

Before we get started, let me pray for us...

**Introduction**

If you've ever watched a sporting event before, especially a grand final (like the World Cup final or the Super Bowl), then you may know what happens after the game when the final whistle is blown.

What you'll see is one big contrast:

- One side will be *rejoicing* (celebrating as they've won the trophy that they've been waiting for).
- And the other will be *weeping* (as they've lost one of the biggest games of their lives).

At last season's Super Bowl (the final for the American Football season), for the first time ever... two brothers (Jason and Travis Kelce) went against each other in the Super Bowl.

Their parents were watching in the stands. Their mom wore a custom jersey of both teams' uniforms stitched together.

After the game, imagine the parents' joy for their son who had reached his dream of winning the Super Bowl. But at the same time, imagine their compassion for the son who had just lost in the biggest game of his life.

Similarly, as God watches over us - those who are made in His image. He rejoices when He sees us repent of our sins and turn back to Him, yet He weeps for those who reject Him.

And it should be the same for us - we should rejoice for those who receive Jesus as King, yet weep for those who reject him as King...

**The One Thing**

***Rejoice as we receive Jesus as King;  
Weep for those who reject him as King***

**Scripture Introduction**

Turn your Bibles to Luke 19:28-46.

For context, last week - in the previous passage - Jesus shared about "The Parable of the Ten Minas." And we learned that when King Jesus returns, he'll expect a return because as his servants, we're to be faithful in stewarding the resources that he's entrusted to us.

Through the parable, he's also correcting and preparing them for what's to come: that the Kingdom of God will not come all at once. And we today have a clearer picture that it will come in 2 parts: Jesus' first and second coming.

Today, we'll pick up after Jesus had said these things...

## **Scripture Reading**

Let's read Luke 19:28-46.

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it." <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

<sup>45</sup> And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, <sup>46</sup> saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

This is God's Word.

## **Overview**

I. The King's people *rejoice* as they *receive* him (vv. 28-40)

II. The King *weeps* for those who *reject* him (vv. 41-46)

### **I. The King's people *rejoice* as they *receive* him (vv. 28-40)**

This is what we'll do:

- Let's go over verses 28-40 together, as we see Jesus' disciples rejoicing as he enters Jerusalem.
- And then afterwards, I'll share 3 life applications on how we can rejoice in him.

Let's dive into the text...

Verse 28 says this:

"And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem."

Brothers and sisters, as we've been going through the Gospel of Luke together this past year, this is the moment that we've been waiting for! After much anticipation, today, we'll finally get to see Jesus arriving at the city of Jerusalem!

Back from chapter 9, we know that Jesus has been *intentionally* traveling from the region of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem because he knows that it's almost time for his ministry on Earth to come to an end. And Jesus knows that it will come to an end in Jerusalem, where he'll be crucified to take on the punishment for the sins of man.

Jesus is a man on a mission, and he's been getting closer and closer to the place where his work will finally be accomplished...

- Along the way, he came near the region of Samaria, where he healed ten lepers.
- And a few weeks ago, we saw Jesus healing a blind man near the city of Jericho (which was about 30 km from Jerusalem).
- He's getting closer...

Now, look at verse 29.

Jesus now reaches the towns of Bethphage and Bethany (which is only about 3 km East from Jerusalem! He's very very close now!). And these towns are at the Mount called Olivet (also known as the "Mount of Olives" - because of all the olive groves surrounding the area).

And this mountainous area is actually quite an important location:

- At the foot of this mount is a garden called Gethsemane, where - in about a week's time from this arrival - Jesus would be betrayed and arrested.
- And then 40 days after his resurrection, the Mount of Olives would also be the location where Jesus would ascend to Heaven.

But on this day, the Mount of Olives is where Jesus finally prepares to enter the city of Jerusalem.

Look at verse 30.

Jesus sent 2 of his disciples to the nearby village and he told them that when they enter the village, they'll find a colt (or a young donkey) tied down. And this young donkey has never been ridden on. They're to simply untie the colt and bring it back to Jesus. If anyone asks, "why are you untying it?" They're to simply say, "The Lord has need of it."

And so these 2 disciples followed the command that Jesus gave them and they went ahead to the village, and what do they see when they got there? A colt tied down. Exactly what Jesus said. And as they're untying it, the owners - very understandably - ask them what they're doing with their colt! "Why are you untying the colt?" And the 2 disciples said exactly what Jesus told them to say, "the Lord has need of it."

The Lord has need of it... this wasn't a complete stranger or a random person who needed their colt, it was Jesus!

At this time, near the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus was well known among the people; he's done many wondrous and miraculous things in public.

- The most recent act (which is not recorded in the Gospel of Luke, but is in the Gospel of John) would've been the resurrection of Lazarus, which happened nearby at the town of Bethany.
  - So from the parallel account in the Gospel of John, we know that at this moment, there's actually a crowd of people who had come to see Jesus and to see the person whom he's resurrected from the dead!
  - By this point, many people have already seen and heard of all the miraculous things that Jesus has done.

So when the owners of the colt heard that it's this Jesus who needs their colt. They willingly gave their consent.

And they allowed the disciples to take the colt, and they brought it back to Jesus. And they put their cloaks on the young donkey, and set Jesus on it.

<pause>

Now, look at verses 36-37.

As Jesus rode along on the colt, his disciples spread their cloaks on the ground to honor him. And as Jesus was drawing ever closer to Jerusalem - as he's now heading down the Mount of Olives - a large number of his disciples came to welcome him, rejoicing!

And from the Gospels of Matthew and John, we also know that they cut down palm branches and were spreading them on the road, as Jesus continued to ride along...

And his disciples rejoiced and praised God with a *loud voice(!)* for all the mighty works that they had seen!

- The healing of the lepers!
- The healing of the blind!
- The resurrection of Lazarus!

And they're loudly saying (in one voice), "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in Heaven and glory in the highest!"

- They're proclaiming about Jesus... using words from Psalm 118 - which is a messianic psalm, prophesying the coming of God's promised King.
- In so doing, they're acknowledging and proclaiming that Jesus is indeed the promised King whom they've been waiting for!

As Jesus rode along, and as cloaks and palm branches were set before him and as the people were rejoicing, honoring him, and praising God! - this would've been such an amazing sight that actually would've been somewhat familiar to the audience during those times. Because customarily, this was how a triumphant king would be welcomed back home after a victorious battle.

And so what we're seeing here is a wonderful picture of Jesus' disciples rejoicing in him, as they're welcoming and receiving him as their King.

<pause>

And even more so, what they're seeing is also the fulfillment of prophecy...

About 500 years before Jesus, this is what the prophet Zechariah wrote:

Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The promised King's triumphant entry to Jerusalem... on a young donkey... has been prophesied since long ago...

- God's plan to save His people through Jesus Christ has been in preparation long before he reached the Mount of Olives.
- In addition to Jesus' teachings and all of the wondrous works that he's done... the fulfillment of this prophecy should've given the Jewish people greater affirmation that Jesus is indeed the promised King whom they've been waiting for for generations...

<pause>

BUT... we'll see that not everyone believes that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy and is the promised King who's to come.

Verse 39 says this:

"And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "teacher, rebuke your disciples."

- Rebuke your disciples! Correct them! Tell them to stop!
- The Pharisees were not comfortable with the people praising Jesus and calling him "the King who comes in the name of the LORD."
  - To them, he's not a king, he's just a "teacher" (that's what they're merely calling him. Not King, not Lord, just as "teacher").

How ironic... The Pharisees - the Jewish, religious leaders - the ones who memorized Scripture (and should be the ones who were most familiar with these prophecies), and should be the ones guiding the Jewish people to worship their Lord and King... the ones who should be waiting for the Messiah's return in anticipation... how ironic that they're the ones who do not see Jesus as their Lord and King. They're in the very presence of the one whom they've read about, studied, and memorized in Scripture! But they cannot see the truth...

<pause>

Isn't that sad for us to hear? And isn't that a bit scary as well. That we can spend our lives reading and memorizing God's Word, yet totally miss who God truly is.

Now, how is that possible? How can we know a lot *about* God, be surrounded by Him, and yet... not recognize Him as we should? And thus, not rejoicing in the one whom we should be praising.

Well, a part of it is because, oftentimes, we tend to project our own feelings and desires onto God Himself; projecting our own conception of how God should be like based on our own needs and expectations. So in the end, the God in our minds may actually be different from the God described in Scripture.

The Pharisees, the religious leaders... they were legalistic. They thought that strictly following Jewish rules and traditions (even those not directly prescribed in Scripture) would make them good people. For them, it's all about following the rules. And that made them even more prideful, thinking that they're better than those who don't follow the rules and traditions as well as them.

- So when they met Jesus, the one who's rebuking them, revealing to them about the pride that's in their hearts... they didn't like that.
- This is not the King they're expecting; certainly not the one they have in mind... so they rejected him as King.

<pause>

Now, at this point, we need to ask ourselves a very important question: Who is Jesus to you?

- Was he merely a good teacher? Or is he your Lord and King?

Kevin DeYoung (pastor and author), asks this question:

[quote]

"How many people know the real Jesus?..."

There's Therapist Jesus who helps us cope with life's problems, heals our past, tells us how valuable we are and not to be so hard on ourselves...

There's Open-minded Jesus who loves everyone all the time no matter what, except for people who are not as open-minded as you...

There's Yuppie Jesus who encourages us to reach our full potential, reach for the stars, and buy a boat...

There's Guru Jesus, a wise, inspirational teacher who believes in you and helps you find your center...

There's Good Example Jesus who shows you how to help people, change the planet, and become a better you...

And then there's Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Not just another prophet. Not just another Rabbi. Not just another wonder-worker. He was the one they had been waiting for..."

- Kevin DeYoung

[End Quote]

So, again, who is Jesus to you?

- Was he merely a wise teacher or merely a prophet? Or just another example of a good person in history?
- Or is Jesus your Lord? Your King?
  - The one who is fully man *and* fully God; the one who came from Heaven to Earth, then headed to Jerusalem to die on the cross for your sake so that you may be saved from the punishment of your sins? Is that who Jesus is to you?

If you're unsure of who Jesus is, I encourage you to come talk to me (or talk to the person who invited you today) after our service. We'd love to talk to you more about Jesus.

<pause>

And I encourage you to get to know who the true Jesus is by reading the Bible - get to know Jesus personally, directly from the Word of God.

- If you don't have access to a Bible, please talk to a church member or you can talk to me, and we'll get you access to a Bible.

And another thing I'd recommend for you is to read:

- *"Who is Jesus?"* by Greg Gilbert, which is available in our church's digital library.
  - <Show image: Who Is Jesus>
  - It's also available in Bahasa Indonesia: *"Siapakah Yesus Itu?"* (by Greg Gilbert)
    - <Show image: Siapakah Yesus Itu>
  - If you're not a member of our church and would like to read the book, again, you can talk to a member or talk to me and we'll do our best to get you access to this book, as well as the Bible.

<pause>

Now, let's take a look at verse 40 - After the Pharisees said, "teacher, rebuke your disciples," this is how Jesus replied...

"He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out'"

What Jesus is basically saying here is... if his disciples do not rejoice and sing at this moment, if they were silent... something else would have to fill the silence that's left behind! That all of creation knows its Lord - that even inanimate objects would cry out to sing praise to Jesus the King if no one else does! Stones would cry out, mountains would bow down, and the seas would roar at the sound of his name!

It is so appropriate for Jesus' disciples to praise and worship him, as he enters his city as King. That if we stop, something else would need to fill that void. The joy and praise of Jesus' disciples should not be discouraged, but rather encouraged!

Why is that? Because Jesus is the true King, the Lord of all creation. The one whom Scripture has been pointing to, and prophesied about.

Through this triumphal entry, as Jesus is receiving the people's proclamation, he's finally declaring publicly that he is indeed the one whom they've been waiting for... and the one whom we're waiting for in his second coming.

Jesus is worthy of our rejoicing and praise because he is the one true King.

<pause>

Now, if Jesus is Lord to you... if he is your King, then what we can see here is that it's so appropriate for his people to rejoice in him as we receive him as our King.

So how can we rejoice in Jesus?

Or let me rephrase the question for those of us who have been Christians for some time. Because perhaps we've already been praising and rejoicing in Jesus. I'll reword it this way: how can we keep rejoicing in Jesus? Even when it's tough to; even when we don't feel like it... how can we rejoice in Jesus?

To help us, allow me to suggest 3 life applications that we can do. They're 3 points of reflection.

### Life Application

Reflect on:

- (1) Who Jesus is.
- (2) What Jesus has done.
- (3) What Jesus will do.

First, take time to intentionally reflect on who Jesus is.

- We can't rejoice in Jesus if we don't remind ourselves daily who he is.
  - Please keep your Bibles open, I'll be referring to a few verses here.
- Look at verses 31 and 34 - disciples of Jesus know that he is Lord (That when they say "The Lord," they're referring to Jesus).
- And look again to verse 38 - as they're rejoicing, the multitude of disciples know that Jesus is the King of the Kingdom of God (that's basically what they're proclaiming!).
  - So just like how the disciples know who their Lord is, as they're praising him, we can also remind ourselves of who Jesus is.
    - And perhaps that's something that we're not used to doing - to take time intentionally to reflect on who Jesus is - who our God is (that He is holy, eternal, completely good). Reflect on what each of those things mean...
  - And as we reflect on who he is, one thing we can do is to pray prayers of praise - specifically praising the person of Jesus (praising him for who he is).
    - We can pray: "Lord Jesus, I praise you for who you are. You are my King. You're completely righteous and humble and you're always with me. And though you know what awaits you in Jerusalem, you continue to head there toward the cross for my sake because you are faithful and you deeply love me. And so you're the only one who's worthy of all my praise, and the praise of all of creation and all people."
- Let's remind ourselves of who Jesus truly is. He is our King!

Second, we can reflect on what Jesus has done.

- Look at verse 37 - Jesus' disciples praised God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen through Jesus.
  - We should praise our King because of all the mighty works that he's done for us!
  - During times when we may not feel like rejoicing in him... reflecting back to the things that God has already done for us can help us to praise and rejoice in Him in the present moment.
  - One thing we can do to remind us of what God has already done for us... is to pray prayers of thanks.
    - We can pray: "God, thank you so much for everything that you've done for me. When I look back to this past week, thank you for providing me with all that I

need. When I was hungry, you provided me with food. When I felt tired and discouraged, you provided me with support and encouragement from the people that you've placed in my life. I cannot keep track of all the blessings that you've poured into my life. And Jesus, I thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Let me not take that for granted. Thank you Lord."

Third, we can reflect on what Jesus will do. Like his disciples, we can specifically look forward to his coming.

- In our case, we can look forward to his second coming.
- And as we wait in anticipation, allow what's yet to come to fill us with hope.
  - Now this may be more difficult to imagine, but we actually do this quite often, right? We look forward to what'll happen at the end of the day or the end of the week to help us get through a difficult day.
  - We look to the future to help us rejoice in the present moment. We can do the same thing as we look forward to Jesus' second coming.
- One thing we can do is to pray *prayers of petition* - humbly asking God to do what He's promised to do...
  - We can pray: "God, help me to fix my eyes on you and on your promises that's yet to come. Jesus, help me to look forward to your second coming where you'll bring about a new creation: New Heaven and New Earth, where there will be no more pain and suffering. May that future provide my spirit with hope and a sense of peace that's beyond human understanding. And until that time comes, I ask that you continue to sanctify me, shaping me to be more like Christ in character. And may you also reveal yourself to others so that more and more people will come to know you as Lord and Savior."

So, again, how can we rejoice in Jesus?

By reflecting on:

- (1) Who Jesus is.
- (2) What Jesus has done.
- (3) What Jesus will do.

And you'll notice that I've suggested that we pray. And that's because prayer is one great way to showcase our rejoicing, praise, and thanks to God Himself *directly*! Praise God that we can come to him in prayer.

So first, we saw how the King's people - Jesus' disciples - rejoiced as they received him as King. But we also saw that not everyone welcomed him. Some - like the Pharisees - rejected him as their King.

Next, we'll see how...

## **II. The King weeps for those who reject him (vv. 41-46)**

Look at verse 41 - As Jesus drew near, and as he saw the city of Jerusalem before him... he wept.

But he's not weeping because of what he knows will happen to him in Jerusalem; he's weeping over the city of Jerusalem itself.

To better understand the significance of the city of Jerusalem, we'll need to look into the first book of the Bible. In Genesis - God made a covenant with Abraham, and then with his son Isaac, and then with his son Jacob (who was given the name "Israel" by God), and then Israel's descendants became known as the people of Israel.

- And when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, God freed them from slavery and made a covenant with them: Their covenant was that God is to be their God, and they are to be His people.
- And then God led His chosen people to His promised land, which became the land of Israel.
- And then after many generations, God chose King Solomon to finally build Him a temple in Jerusalem (the capital city of Israel) so that God may live with His chosen people.



He didn't need to, but God chose to be with them. God deeply loves the city of Jerusalem, and God loves His people.

Yet, when God Himself - Jesus Christ, the one who is fully man and fully God - came from Heaven to Earth to Jerusalem, he finds that his people have rejected him as King.

Earlier we saw how some of the Pharisees rejected Jesus as their King. But that's actually only a small glimpse of the large number of people in Jerusalem who also reject Jesus as their King; who - in mere days - would be shouting, "Crucify him, crucify him!" as they demand Pontius Pilate to execute Jesus.

Look at verse 42 - Jesus says this as he's weeping, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Jesus weeps for those who reject him because he knows that he is the way, the truth, and the life. That if they do not receive him, they will not have peace. The truth is now hidden from their eyes - Jesus, the one who they've been waiting for - the promised Messiah, their Lord and Savior, is right there in front of their eyes, yet they cannot see the Truth as truth.

Look at verse 44 - because they "did not know the time of [their] visitation" - because they did not know that this was their one and true King who's coming; who's visiting them at this hour - they will be judged and condemned.

<pause>

Jesus then foretells of a time in the future when Jerusalem will be destroyed - look at verses 43-44:

- "Enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side" (v.43)
- "And tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you" (v.44a)
- "And they will not leave one stone upon another in you" (v.44a)

Here, Jerusalem is the personification of Israel - the judgment on Jerusalem is the judgment on the people who've rejected Jesus.

What we now know is that this prophetic judgment would be fulfilled in about 40 years' time... when in 70 AD, the Roman Empire would siege Jerusalem... barricading and surrounding the city on every side, as the city and temple were destroyed to the ground, and many within the city were killed.

This destruction is only a small glimpse of what's to come in final judgment - when all who reject Jesus - will not be saved and have peace, but will be destroyed, as they're eternally punished in Hell.

This is why Jesus is weeping...

Because he deeply loves his city and the people within it, his heart weeps for those who would be condemned and eternally separated from him in Hell.

<pause>

If you're a parent and you care for and nurture a child, and one day he or she grows up and says, "I hate you. You're not my parent." How crushing would that be? And worse, imagine he or she does something illegal and you're the judge. How crushing would it be to execute the just judgment that they deserve.

There's so much behind this weeping...

- It shows that our Lord is compassionate. It shows the divine affection that God has for His people.
- Scripture says that our Lord does not want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9), and he does not take any pleasure from the death of the wicked. Instead he rejoices when sinners repent of their sins (and turn to him), and live (Ezekiel 18:23).

<pause>

My own parents have actually told me that - when I was younger - it was really difficult for them to see me unwell or in pain. As parents, they wish they could switch places with me and take that pain so I didn't have to. As I've now grown older, I now understand better what they mean.

Because I think we all have someone we deeply care about - think of that person for a second. And we wouldn't want to see them heartbroken or suffering in pain. And when we see them discouraged and broken, we'd wish we could switch places with them so they wouldn't have to experience those horrible things.

Well, that's what Jesus did for us... because he deeply loves us...

He knew what would happen to sinners. And we're all sinners - no one is good compared to God's perfect standard of righteousness - not even the best of us. And as Jesus sees what would happen to us because of our sins, he says, "I'll switch places with them. Whatever their sins are, I'll bear the punishment of their sins so they don't have to."

And that's why Jesus was heading to Jerusalem. Out of his love for us, Jesus became our substitute on the cross. He lived the perfect life that we could not, so then when he died, he died for our sins instead of his (because he had none). And now, those who believe in him as Lord and Savior - as King of the Kingdom of God - they will not perish, but rather they will have eternal life in the Kingdom of God; in Heaven.

<pause>

If you have not yet put your faith in Christ, I'd invite you to know the one who loves you and cares for you.

- Who weeps for those who reject him.
- And who died so those who receive him may be saved.

And for those of us who have already received Jesus, and put our faith in him... Like our King, do you weep for those who reject Jesus?

- Do you weep for your family member, friend, co-worker, or others in our city who have not yet received Jesus as their King.
- One difference between us and Jesus in this case is that Jesus knows who will actually reject him. But we don't know that for sure. We only know who's rejecting him currently.
  - So as those who have the gospel, we should weep for those that we see currently on the track toward judgment. But we don't just weep, but we share the Gospel with them - that's the most loving thing we can do.
    - Who can you share the Gospel with this upcoming week?
    - And let's pray for them, trusting that our God loves them and desires to be known. Let's pray for opportunities to have deep, spiritual conversations and to share the Good News of Jesus with them.

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Look at verse 45 - As Jesus enters the city, he visits the temple.

And as he judges his city, he will also judge his temple...

In the book of Isaiah, it's written that the temple is to be a house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7).

- It's a place of prayer and sacrifice, as people go to the temple in order to offer their sacrifices to God, and repent for their sins.
- And it's a place of worship where people are to praise God for who He is, lift up thanks for what He's done, and ask Him to fulfill His promises, as they look forward to their promised King's coming.

But, what we know from the Gospels of Matthew and Mark is that when Jesus arrived at the temple, what he saw was something that resembles a marketplace more than a temple:

- There were tables of money-changers around the temple courtyard.
  - People doing business - possibly charging high exchange rates to convert from foreign currency to the currency accepted at the temple (which was the shekel).

- And Jesus saw merchants selling pigeons for sacrifice - more than likely, they're charging more than the average price for pigeons; taking advantage of the pilgrims who're making their way into Jerusalem for Passover.

So what's Jesus' judgment on his temple?

Look at verses 45-46 - Jesus drove out those who sold (the money-changers and the merchants), saying to them: "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

Jesus' judgment on the temple was that the temple has been defiled. It was not being used for its purpose as a house of prayer. It's been defiled by those who are more interested in other things than fellowship with God (it's been turned into something that it's not supposed to be), and so Jesus cleansed the temple, pointing everyone back to its true purposes.

<pause>

And even more than that, Jesus himself will be the fulfillment of the temple's true purposes... because Jesus himself is the true temple...

- Scripture describes his body as the true temple that, even though it'll be destroyed, will be raised back in 3 days (John 2:19-22).
- And Jesus himself serves as the perfect sacrifice for our sins - after Jesus, there will be no other sacrifice needed. His blood covers all of our past, present, and future sins.
- And Jesus is the true temple where people can worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
  - Because when Jesus died for our sins, he's reconciled our relationship with God, and we're adopted into God's family - empowering us to speak to our Heavenly Father directly through prayer as children of God.

And so Jesus is also rebuilding his people (the church).

- And as a church - as one spiritual family - we're to gather together for the purpose of worshiping our God - to lift up different prayers of praise, thanks, confession, and petition (which we did together today).
- And as a gathering of His people, we're to share in one another's joys and sorrows, and rejoice and weep together.
  - So let's rejoice together as we receive Jesus as our King, and let's weep together for those who reject him as King.
  - But let's not stop there. Let's work together to bring the Good News to others in our city...

Because one day, in his second coming... Jesus will also rebuild his city, New Jerusalem. A place where all of God's people will be with Him - rejoicing in Him - forever.

- And we long to see more and more people to be with us on that day, rejoicing in Jesus as our King and praising God.
- Until then, let's continue to help one another rejoice in our Lord together, and continue to pray for others so that they may also be with us in Jesus' new creation.

## **The One Thing**

***Rejoice as we receive Jesus as King;  
Weep for those who reject him as King***

Let's pray.