

## **“Weeping, Anger and Love”** **St. Luke 19:45**

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SERMON 1929

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Our sermon text is from St. Luke 19:45, “Then He{Jesus} went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it.”

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Savior who took on human flesh and became fully human exhibits a range of human emotions. Jesus weeps when he sees the city Jerusalem. He is angered at the religious authorities when He sees what they have done with the temple. Jesus is compassionate and loving as He teaches the people in the temple.

Human emotions along with everything else human were created and furnished by our heavenly Father. These emotions were initially good. However, since the fall into sin they can be infected with sin. Of themselves they are neither good nor bad. Human emotions reveal the conditions within the heart of man. Thus, our emotions can either show the sinful desires of our sinful heart or the new desires of the new heart God creates in us through our baptism.

We must be on guard and constantly restrain thoughts and desires which are sinful. The natural desire for a spouse is good, but an improper desire for another's spouse is lust. The proper anger against sin is righteous, but improper anger is condemned as hate.

We know that our Savior never sinned. In today's text, when Jesus emotions show through, we get to see the pure, sinless heart of our Savior. We can learn about his godly desires for us and for our salvation. When His emotions change, we can learn what is pleasing to our Savior and what angers him.

First of all, we know that our God desires to save all people. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

The whole reason for the coming of our Savior in human flesh was to suffer and die and take away our sin. We were dead in our trespasses and sins and unable to save ourselves. The only begotten Son, our Savior, was born of the virgin Mary so that He could rescue us. The atonement price was Jesus' sinless death. The means of receiving that gift was through faith. Faith is a gift of God created by the Gospel message, which is the announced promise of salvation.

Our Triune God had appointed Abraham as the father of a nation. He would impart that promise of God in order to create faith in the heart. Our God not only sent Prophets to teach and explain that promise, but He had them write down their prophecies. The chosen nation Israel were the recipients of that record. They were to guard and keep it, so that it might be a light to the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel.

When Jesus arrived at the capital city of this chosen nation, He was saddened that they had squandered their heritage. Not only did they not serve as a beacon of salvation to the surrounding countries, but the Jews themselves did not know their Savior. His heart is saddened that they did not know the things that make for peace. They did not know Jesus, forgiveness, faith, or salvation. Despite God's gracious provisions, they did not know. They were not saved. They had no peace.

This weeping of Jesus shows us the loving heart of our God. Ezekiel 33:11, "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

But then Jesus arrives at the Temple and his weeping turns to anger.

It is a different story when Jesus arrives at the temple. When Jesus sees that things have also gone awry in the temple, **Jesus doesn't weep**. When he sees that the temple of God has been turned into a marketplace or a department store, Jesus is outraged. He turns over their tables of goods and drives out the sellers.

Jesus acts differently because these who are in the temple, should have known better. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people should have taken great care to see that the Temple was a place for the reading of God's Word, the singing of praise, the responsive prayers of God's people. The temple is the house of God, and Jesus is God's Son. Jesus cleans up the house and puts things in order. Judgment will begin at the house of God.

But it is not enough to simply drive out the demon, you must replace it with the Holy Spirit. **Jesus, therefore, teaches daily in the temple** so that the people might be taught and have peace.

Finally, we see Jesus' industrious love. Jesus goes about his loving work of teaching. For three days of His last week on earth, Jesus teaches in the temple.

--Jesus teaches from the law to show us our sins. He does this to reveal our sinful condition. We have sinned against God and offended our maker and thus we have fear and no peace. He does this so that we mourn our sin and sorrow over it. Yes, Jesus desires a sorrow in the heart which is shown forth in the emotion of human sadness.

--Jesus teaches from the Gospel so that we learn about the salvation which brings peace. Jesus provides for us peace with God, peace with our neighbor, and a conscience which is at rest and has the peace which passes understanding. The message of reconciliation with God creates faith or trust in the heart. And that faith is then overwhelmed with love in response to God's love.

The text says that the wicked leaders were continuing to oppose Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. Similarly, our afflictions and persecutions in this world, do not become any easier and or less painful. Nevertheless, our Lord restrains the forces of evil for our sake. "They did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words."

As believers in Christ, we hang on Jesus' words. We cling to Jesus' words. We meditate on Jesus' words. We sing Jesus' words. We trust in Jesus' words. Our enemies assail us on every side, but they cannot find anything which they can do to

separate us from Jesus. No one can take us out of His Hand. With the Word-created faith in Jesus Christ, we are safe. Holding on to the Word of God, you have a God-give peace.