

Chapter 2

In Jerusalem (Leader's Guide)

Luke 19:47-22:6

- 1 **Read Luke 19:41-42.** As Jesus nears the Holy City of Jerusalem, He weeps for it. Why do you think Jesus is weeping?

We can speculate on a number of reasons that Jesus, upon His entry to Jerusalem, is weeping. Have the students read a few verses further. In **verses 43-44**, Jesus proceeds to prophesy the destruction of Jerusalem, which, many scholars say, happened in 70 AD - only a few decades after Jesus' passion.

Compare with: Luke 21:5-6 and Luke 21:10-28.

These are awfully intense verses. Many have interpreted these to represent the events of the last days. The Church believes this to be true, but also sees another meaning. Jesus, in a real and immediate way, was predicting the things which were to take place in the decades after His Passion. Jerusalem *was* taken over and destroyed by the gentiles; and the early Christians *were* persecuted, put on trial, and put to death. As if that wasn't enough, He was foreseeing His own passion and death and knew that many of those praising Him would soon turn against Him. As He entered Jerusalem that day, Jesus must have foreseen all of this.

Entering into Christ's Passion:

“On the threshold of His passion Jesus announced the destruction of this splendid building, of which there would not remain ‘one stone upon another.’ By doing so, He announced a sign of the last days which were to begin with His own Passover. But this prophecy would be distorted in its telling by false witnesses during His interrogation at the high priest’s house and would be thrown back at Him as an insult when He was nailed to the cross.” CCC 585

Ask: What do you think Jesus’ thoughts were as He entered into Jerusalem foreseeing His passion and death and the persecution of those who would follow Him?

-Do you think Jesus was weeping for the sin of those who were to betray Him and for Jerusalem’s impending destruction?

-Try to really get the students to feel the fear and hurt that Jesus must have been experiencing knowing the people praising Him would soon turn against Him

- 2 Have you ever been betrayed by someone you loved? Describe your reaction to that betrayal.

This would be a good place for a personal story. Get the students to share their own.

- 3 Christ knew that He was to be betrayed more deeply than we could ever imagine by His own beloved creation. His reaction isn’t anger. It’s tremendous sadness. Is Jesus weeping for Himself or for His betrayers? What do you think about His response?

We often look at the lives of others and think, “At least I’m not as bad as *that*.” What’s more, if someone wrongs us, our natural reaction tends to be anger—not hurt for the person. Jesus’ reaction seems completely foreign to much of our own common logic. Have someone **read Luke 13:34-35**. **Ask** what the students think about the kind of love that Jesus has for His people in these verses.

Ask: Do we ever use the sin of others to justify our own actions (I could be much worse)?

-***What would it be like to see our sin as God sees it?*** Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, Wisconsin once said that grace allows us to see that

“my sin is much worse than I thought - it nailed Christ to the cross, but because of Christ’s love, I’m much better off than I thought.”

- 4 **Read Luke 19:45-46.** Immediately upon entering Jerusalem, Jesus heads straight for the Temple. When He reaches it, He acts in a way we might not expect. What does Jesus do and why?

Jesus has very good reason for His actions. He was angry at what was happening to His Father’s house.

“Jesus went up to the Temple as the privileged place of encounter with God. For Him, the Temple was the dwelling place of His Father, a house of prayer, and He was angered that its outer court had become a place of commerce. He drove the merchants out of it because of jealous love for His Father: ‘You shall not make my Father’s house a house of trade’. His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ After His Resurrection His apostles retained their reverence for the Temple” (CCC 584).

Jesus was upset because those who were supposed to be followers of His Father were insulting the Father through their actions. The temple was meant to be a gathering place for people of all nations to come to know the one true God (Isaiah 56:7). The people were now using it as a place for their own benefit. They wanted the temple to be the crown jewel of the Jewish people, not an invitation for all people to know God. It had become a symbol of Israel’s superiority. As the Catechism says, Jesus’ anger is justified because it was based out of love of the Father and desire for all of His lost children to be brought home.

“Rather than being a source of bringing in the Gentiles, the temple in Jesus’ day had become a source of keeping them out. No other institution stood out more as Israel’s identity marker, setting the Jews apart from the non-Jews. An inscription over the entryway to the temple’s inner courts made the point crystal clear: ‘No alien may enter within the barrier and wall around the temple. Whoever is caught is alone responsible for the death that follows.’”

✠ **Edward Sri, *Mystery of the Kingdom***

Entering into Christ's Passion:

- 5 Have you ever invited someone to be a guest in your home and felt as though they abused your invitation? What was your response?

They could not capture Jesus because all those who loved and followed Him hung closely to Him.

- 6 **Read Luke 19:47-48.** We see here that Jesus' enemies are ready to put Him to death. According to these verses, what prevents them?

This verse seems to suggest safety when we cling close to Christ and when His followers cling close to each other. Just as we saw that there are angels protecting us and surrounding us in the last chapter, countless representative of the evil one are constantly desiring our destruction. Our only protection is our closeness to Christ and our reliance on the prayer and support of others. Really emphasize the message of the charcoal analogy.

- 7 What does this tell us about our need to cling close to Jesus? What might it tell us about the need to support one another in our faith?