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Broken Branches and Broken People

Text: Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:37-46

The branches are not the only broken items we see on Palm Sunday (Mark 11:8).

The city of Jerusalem itself, was deemed broken and, in fact, the city broke Jesus’ heart by their behavior.

Cf. Matthew 23:37-39 and Luke 13:34-35; 19:41-44.

Jerusalem broke the heart of Jesus by their

1. Ignorance of what time it was. It was the time of their visitation (Luke 19:44)
2. Murder of their ministers (Matthew 23:37). There were those who were sent to them. Jerusalem, rather than embracing the spokespersons of God, silenced them.
3. Refusal to be gathered under Jesus’ wings (Matthew 23:37)

Jesus has invited the people of Jerusalem to an intimate relationship, but they wanted none of it. Jerusalem’s behavior made Jesus weep (Luke 19:41). He whose heart is tender, weeps over His people’s hardness of hearts.

He who knows all things, knew Jerusalem’s future. Cf. Jeremiah 6:6-21, esp. 6-8;

He who knows no bounds in time, sees the end from the beginning. We *operate* in the present and *think* about the future, but the Christ is the Reigning One in the past, present and future. Can you hear Jesus? “If you had known what I know, how different your days would be!!” Jesus is sobbing over the ignorance, the spiritual insensitivity, the naïveté of the people of Jerusalem. The irony is that the city of Jerusalem has *shalom (Salem)* as part of its name (Hebrews 7:2). However, Jerusalem, as a corporate entity, knows little or nothing of peace. This is the city of King David and King Solomon. It is where the ark of the covenant rested. Jerusalem: the city of God.

In one day, Jesus moves from joy (Luke 29:37-40) to lament (19:41-44) to anger (19:45-46).

Hear the “Hosanna”s coming from those who broke branches and waved them. Hear, *also,* the brokenness of our Savior. Hear the people who don’t understand what is available to them. He weeps for their spiritual immaturity. Jesus weeps for a people who have turned the house of worship and prayer into a commercially abusive enterprise.

**Illus.**

When I was in itinerant ministry, I would occasionally go to a church that prohibited the sale of ministry products such as CDs, DVDs and books. They cited Jesus turning over the money changers’ tables as their reason. Jesus was not against selling in His father’s house, He was against shysters changing outrageous prices.

Jesus weeps for people who have forgotten their spiritual identity. They are the city of David! He weeps for their brokenness. He weeps for you... and for me.

**Closing**

The Bible records three instances of Jesus weeping:

1. Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35)
2. Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41)
3. Jesus wept in prayer to God, His father (Hebrews 5:7)

Jesus may have wept many more times in his thirty-three years on the earth. We only have three instances *recorded*. Remember, everything in the Bible is true but not everything that is true made its way into the Bible.

**Psalm 34:18**

The Lord *is* near to those who have a broken heart,

And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Today would be a PERFECT day for broken people to present themselves to a Savior who can mend us!

Amen