

Jesus Wept Over the City

Matthew 9:35-36

I'm so glad you could join me today for "It's a Good Life." We'll be looking in just a few moments in Matthew chapter 9. We're going to look at several Scriptures today. I hope you've got your pencil and paper ready. This is a very important Bible study that we're looking at today.

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Now, in Matthew chapter 9, in verse 35 through 36, it says this: ³⁵ *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* ³⁶ *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.* Now, in these verses, we see the word "compassion." This word "compassion" here means to hurt deep inside. Jesus was hurting.

And in Luke chapter 19 and verse 41, we see where He wept over the city. And I think back as I read the Scriptures, and I think back of when I first received Jesus as Savior. I didn't know as much then as I know now about the Lord. I know that the Lord Jesus, when He came and was born of a woman in Bethlehem, I know that when He

came and He was born that way, He was born as a man, as a baby, as a human being, and I realize also that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is God. Well, when Jesus came, He set aside His deity. He set aside the deity that we know as God, and He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Yet, He knew no sin as He lived in this sinful world. So, He was a man. He was a human being who felt pain. He hurt deep inside. He had compassion.

In Matthew chapter 23 and verse 37, the Bible says, Jesus speaking, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not!*

Well, what did Jesus see that made Him cry? We read in the Bible that Jesus wept. In Matthew chapter 9 and verse 36, the Bible says that He saw something that made Him cry, and in our verses today as we've read, Jesus had compassion. Well, what did He see that made Him cry?

First of all, I see that, in Matthew chapter 18, verses 11 through 14, the Bible says there, ¹¹ *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.* ¹² *How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?* ¹³ *And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that [sheep], than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.* ¹⁴ *Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*

Jesus saw, first of all, I believe, the reason He had compassion, the reason He was hurting is because He saw the sheep were scattered. They were sheep

scattered abroad, men and women who needed Him as their Savior.

In John 10, verses 11 through 15, the Bible says, and I'll read just the first part of verse 11 of John chapter 10, *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.* A Shepherd who would lay down His life for His sheep.

Ezekiel chapter 34, verses 4 through 6, says, *The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up [that which was] broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. ⁵And they were scattered, because [there is] no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. ⁶My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek [after them].*

And then that very familiar verse in Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 6, the Bible says there, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Jesus saw the condition that this world was in, that the human beings had not received Him as their Savior. He came to seek and to save those who were lost. He came as the Good Shepherd, but the sheep would not follow Him.

Now, of course, we know that there were some who followed. We're thankful that during His lifetime on this earth, during His physical lifetime here, that many believed upon Him, but He was moved with compassion for those who had not believed upon Him. And the Bible says there in Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 6, *All we like sheep have gone astray.*

Have you gone astray? Well, the Bible says you have. The Bible says that, if you have not trusted

Jesus as your Savior, you have gone astray and that He's ready and willing to take you back. He's looking for you today as the Good Shepherd.

Well, something else I see here that made Jesus weep, made Him cry. He saw men who were depraved. They were fainted because they had a spiritual sickness. In Isaiah chapter 40 and verse 28 through 31, it says, ²⁸*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, [that] the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [there is] no searching of his understanding. ²⁹He giveth power to the faint; and to [them that have] no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.*

He wept because men had fainted; women had fainted; people had fainted because they had not depended upon Him. They had a spiritual sickness. But the Bible says in that verse we just read, *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew [their] strength.* Your strength may need renewing today. Maybe you have never trusted Him as your Savior and you have no strength at all. Maybe you've trusted him as Savior, but you've strayed away from Him. Well, you need to renew your strength today. You need to turn to the Lord. As a saved person, if you've trusted Him, you need to turn to Him today and say, "Lord, forgive me for not trusting in You, not for my salvation, Lord, at this point because I know I'm saved, but forgive me for not serving You the way I should."

Well, Jesus wept. And then we understand that He saw people whose destiny was Hell. Don't let anybody tell you that there's not a place called Hell. Jesus spoke more on Hell in the New Testament than anyone else. In the Old Testament, we look back in the Psalms and we see

in Psalm 9:17, it says, *The wicked shall be turned in to Hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.* Proverbs 27:20 says, *Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.* Isaiah 5:14, *Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.* Revelation chapter 20, verses 14 and 15, it says there, ¹⁴*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* ¹⁵*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* Revelation 14:11, *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

The Bible tells us that there is a Hell. Jesus believed there was a Hell. Jesus knows and He knew there was a Hell and that's the reason that He wants you to be saved today. One of the reasons He wants you to be saved, the real reason He wants you to be saved today is so that you can bring honor and glory to the Father. The Bible says in the book of Revelation that all things were created for Him and by Him and that, because of that, He was to receive the glory and the honor that comes only to God. Well, Jesus saw the destiny of the people and He wept. He knew they were on their way to a devil's Hell. The Bible says that Hell was created for the devil and his angels.

Something else He saw, He saw people in despair without a shepherd. And we've already seen some of that. In Acts chapter 8, verses 30 and 31, it says, ³⁰*And Philip ran thither to [him], and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?* ³¹*And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*

As we look at that, we understand that this man was wondering about salvation. He was reading Isaiah, but there was no one to show him what it really meant. But the Bible tells us that Phillip ran and he told him what it meant. Well, what about today? Who's around to tell people what it means to be saved? First Peter 5:1-4 talks about pastors, elders. Jesus is here and the pastor is here. The Bible, the Word of God leads people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. *[F]aith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:17). Pastors in local churches lead people to the Lord by preaching the Word of God.

You today, as a saved person, need to be leading people to Jesus today. Are you doing that? Are you telling people about the love of the Lord? And as a person who has never trusted Christ, one day there will be no excuse for you. You've heard the Word of God now. You've heard how that Jesus loves you, how that He came and He died for you. He wants to save you today for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Right where you're at, let me invite you to ask Him into your heart. "Lord, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior right now." If you'll pray that prayer, Jesus will save you today.

Well, it's been a joy being with you today and let me invite you to, once again, look at our website, www.LRWM.org. And until this same time next week, I'll be thinking of you. I may not know you personally, but I pray for those who listen and I pray that you will know Jesus as your Savior.

May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.