

Pastor Brian's  
Midweek Message  
March 16, 2022

**"JUDGMENT?"**

*A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away. (Matthew 16:4)*

Last week I mentioned that two years ago to the day we were winging our way to the Holy Land, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of our trip, we were plodding down the steep grade of the Mount of Olives, retracing the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that we call Palm Sunday. About two thirds of the way down there is a place called "The Teardrop Church".



It's designed to look like a teardrop...kind of. It's real name is "The Church of Dominus Flevit"...the Lord wept. This is supposedly the spot where Jesus stopped on His way into the city and broke down weeping for all who lived there. *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 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. 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 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."* (Luke 23:41-44) Jesus knows of the wickedness of the leaders of the people, the Jewish council.

He knows of His rejection in the coming days, and his ultimate crucifixion and death. That's what He came for, to die for the sins of all people, to make peace for us with our God. But they will refuse Him, and He predicts judgment and destruction that will come upon them at the hands of the Romans about 40 years in the future.

Also, as I mentioned last week, as we flew into Jerusalem we flew right into a global pandemic. It has lasted two years now. In this country alone the death toll is estimated at just under 1 million. Worldwide it's pegged at more than 6 million. Could this outbreak be God's judgment on the wickedness of our generation? I can't say so, because I can't read the mind of God and speak for Him, but I can't say that it isn't either! And now, as we seem to be emerging out from under this very dark cloud another one is gathering, a regional war that threatens to escalate into something much bigger, much worse. Again, could this be another judgment coming down from the Lord? I can't say that it's not, and I won't say that it is unless somehow God reveals that to me directly.

What's more important to us is to use Jesus as our model in these troubled, wicked times. How did He handle the situation? We have an eyewitness report from the Apostle Peter in the house of Cornelius the Roman centurion in Acts chapter 10. *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day. (38-40a)* Yes, Jesus attacked the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders, but much more so He went around doing good for hurting people. He was a bright Light of hope in his world, and He calls us to be the same, to do the same. He has given us the sign of Jonah, that He was in the belly of the earth for three days and then rose from the dead as our eternal Savior and Lord. Through Him we are sheltered from judgment and punishment in the life to come, which provides hope in this life. We have that message to pass on to the rest of the world, those in darkness, sin, and death. Yes, we weep over the condition of this generation, this world, and Christ has shown us what to do about it.