

IF THOU HADEST KNOWN

LUKE 19

Text: Luke 19:42

(Luke 19:42) "Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

Introduction:

When Christ wept over Jerusalem as recorded in our text, he was weeping because the people and the city missed the opportunity that God had given them.

I'm afraid that all of us have missed many opportunities to do that which the Lord would have us do. I often wonder if the Lord isn't weeping over us and our city and the opportunities missed.

Notice

1. THE REALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

In Christ's words to the city, we can understand that their opportunity was real, but also brief. Opportunity was presented in three ways:

A. By Prophecy

The parable in chapter 20 clearly indicates the representatives of God who spoke to the husbandmen, warning them that they might honor God.

(Luke 20:9-18) "Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time. {10} And at the season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent him away empty. {11} And again he sent another servant: and they beat him also, and entreated him shamefully, and sent him away empty. {12} And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out. {13} Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him. {14} But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours. {15} So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? {16} He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid. {17} And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? {18} Whosoever shall fall upon that stone

shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

1. Many times people respond to the warnings of God in much of the same ways.

- a. Ignore and reject them

B. By Proclamation

1. The Word of God

- a. Proclaims the opportunity to be forgiven.

C. By Proofs

The fulfillment of prophecy proved that God was speaking to his people, creating an opportunity to come to Him.

We too have opportunities to come to the Lord, to know and serve Him. We must claim these opportunities.

2. THE RICHNESS OF OPPORTUNITY

- A. For salvation
- B. For nearness to Christ
- C. For service to Christ and others
- D. For sharing and witnessing to others

3. THE REJECTION OF OPPORTUNITY

- A. The results of rejection

- 1. Disappearance (vs 42)

(Luke 19:42) "Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

- 2. Desolation (vs 43)

(Luke 19:43) "For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,"

- 3. Destruction (vs 44)

(Luke 19:44) "And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in

thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

B. Reasons for rejection

1. Ignorance - vs 42 if thou hadst known
2. Idleness - too lazy to seek the Lord
3. Iniquity - too distracted by sin to seek the Lord
4. Industry - too busy to seek the Lord

Close:

Huey Long, the flamboyant Louisiana politician, was shot down in cold blood as he was walking from one meeting to another. Before that, outside the hall of his office, a Baptist preacher tried to talk to him about the Lord. Long said, "Man if you were Jesus Christ, I couldn't give you five minutes." Little did he know that just minutes after that statement he would step into eternity. We must see the opportunity God is giving and claim it now, before it is too late.