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Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

Embracing God's Call to Peace & Transformation

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

*As Jesus drew near Jerusalem,
he saw the city and wept over it, saying,
“If this day you only knew what makes for peace—
but now it is hidden from your eyes.
For the days are coming upon you
when your enemies will raise a palisade against you;
they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides.
They will smash you to the ground and your children within you,
and they will not leave one stone upon another within you
because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”*

LUKE 19:41-44

Reflection

In this Gospel, we see Jesus' compassion as he looks upon Jerusalem and weeps. His tears reveal a deep sorrow not just for the city itself but for the people's inability to recognize the true path to peace and the nearness of God in their midst. Jesus foresees the destruction awaiting Jerusalem, a consequence of rejecting the ways of peace, of missing the call to transformation that he embodies. His sorrow is palpable, reflecting the heart of a God who desires wholeness, mercy, and reconciliation.

Jesus' lament is also a call to each of us. How often do we fail to see what brings true peace? We may get caught in cycles of pride, anger, or self-interest, unaware that these can erode the foundations of peace in our own hearts and communities. Just as Jerusalem did not recognize “the time of its visitation,” we sometimes miss God's presence in our daily lives, God's gentle promptings, the opportunities for forgiveness, and the moments that call us back to love.

I am reminded of this truth from my own life. When I was 14, my older brother was killed due to gang violence. For years, I couldn't bring myself to be around people who looked like gang members. I felt deep hatred toward them, seeing them as evil. It took me a long time to heal and forgive. However, through Fr. Greg Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*, I began to find the strength to forgive. I saw these individuals as my brothers and sisters, worthy of dignity and compassion, filled with love. God's presence and call to peace were slowly made known to me, helping me to embrace the very people I once saw as enemies. Just as Jesus weeps for the city that misses its chance for peace, I, too, was challenged to see beyond the hurt and respond with love.

This Gospel invites us to pause and reflect: Are there areas in our lives where we resist God's call to peace? Are we overlooking those invitations because they seem too complicated or because we are too focused on our plans? Jesus' tears remind us of the urgency of responding to God's visitation and the need to embrace the paths of humility, compassion, and forgiveness that lead to true peace. May we trust that even in the face of our struggles, God's love is steadfast, longing to bring us back to the fullness of life and wholeness in Him.



Man Wearing Black Cap with Eyes Closed Beneath Cloudy Sky

Photo by Kelvin Valerio

For Pondering

- Are there specific areas where I resist God's call to peace, perhaps by holding on to pride, anger, or past hurts? How can I begin to open myself to healing and reconciliation?
- In what ways might I be missing God's presence in my daily life, through gentle promptings, calls for forgiveness, or moments that invite me to love more fully?
- Reflecting on Jesus' compassion and sorrow for Jerusalem, how might I deepen my compassion for others, especially those I find difficult to understand or forgive?

For Prayer

Prayer for Peace by St. John Paul II

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are Yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you" – please grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love.

*Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.
Amen.*

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