

God's Hunger for Us
Weeping, Seeking, and Dying
Luke 19:1-10, 41-44
Sermon Outline

Introduction: The idea of God judging people is hard for many of us. For those of us who are disciples of Jesus it is hard to dismiss because he speaks of it repeatedly, including in Luke 19:41-44. What helps greatly is discovering that the God who judges is also the God who weeps, who seeks us, and has died for us.

I) The Judge weeps

A) *Luke 19.41: When he drew near (to the city) he wept over it*

B) The meaning

II) The Judge seeks

A) Jesus and Zacchaeus

Urgency

Naming

Mission accomplished: *v. 10: ...to seek and to save what was lost*

B) Why Zacchaeus?

C) What about 'good' people (like us)?

III) The Judge dies

A) Jesus' urgency

B) Why so urgent?

Take Away:

Receive now

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Both the New Testament and the Old Testament tell us that God judges. What problems do you have with this notion?
- 2) Reflect on the following statement by N.T. Wright: "Jesus' tears are at the core of the Christian gospel...This [weeping over Jerusalem] was not a moment of regrettable weakness...It is an essential part of Jesus' message of warning and judgment that it is uttered, finally, through sobs...There is no sense of 'I told you so,' or 'It serves you right.' Only shaking sobs."

Does what has just been described put Jesus at odds with his Father? If not, how can we explain that God will judge anyone?

- 3) List the terms and acts that contribute to the sense of urgency in Luke 19:1-10, 41-44. Why the urgency?
- 4) List the acts and words that make God's search for Zacchaeus so specific. Why the specificity? What does it tell us about God's approach to us?
- 5) How did the people of Jericho react to Jesus' involvement with Zacchaeus? Why? How might you have? Why?
- 6) Reflect on the following: "God searches for 'good' people too, but in a different way than he does with Zacchaeus. He searches for them by bothering them with stories like this one. The story forces upon us a number of questions, one of which is this: 'Are we, like Zacchaeus, eager, willing, and content simply to have Jesus in our lives—even if we have nothing else?'"
- 7) Jesus was 'passing through' Jericho (v 1) because he was on his way to Jerusalem, where he had previously said he 'must' die. Why the 'must'? How does that 'must' relate to his invitation to Zacchaeus to receive him into his home? Is Jesus' death a 'must' to you? Why? Why not?
- 8) Luke 19:44, together with Jesus' command to Zacchaeus to 'hurry and come down', make vivid that it is possible to miss the grace that Jesus had come to give. There is no day like today respond. In fact there is no other day, for today is the only day we have. Is there any response that God has been urging upon you? If so, what are you going to do about it today?