



---

# Campbell Chapel

---

Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Jesus Wept. But Why?

*Sunday, March 25, 2018*

Bob Bradley

Luke 19. We want to read a few things here tonight. It has a lot to do and a lot about the same subject as our Sunday school this morning. In 2 Chronicles 7, we looked this morning at verses 12 through 22 and it was about God speaking to Solomon when the temple had been built and everything had been done. We know that God appeared to Solomon and told him that he was pleased with it. We know the fire came down, the smoke; it devoured the sacrifices that were there. God let Solomon know. "Solomon, I'm pleased with what is going on here. I'm pleased with this house. Because I am pleased with it then I am going to sanctify this house. This is where I am going to be. This is where I am going to accept sacrifices at from this people that is going to be in this house. We know that He made many promises to Solomon. We are not going to talk about all of them tonight.

I do want to lay a little bit of background on what we want to talk about tonight. If you read verse 11, of 2 Chronicles 7, if you read verse 11, we know that God appeared to Solomon. When you read verse 12, we know that God made a wonderful promise to Solomon about answered prayer. This would be the place that He would answer prayer. When people would come here and offer up prayer in this house, God said, "I will answer your prayer." He chose the temple for His sacrifices.

When you read verse 13, God made him a promise on what could stop His hand of judgment. You remember we read about all the pestilence and all the things that God had said, if he would sin. He said that could all be stopped if people would just do something. He gave the conditions of that. He said if you will just confess me, if you will humble yourselves, if you will pray and seek my face and repent, the result would be, in verse 14, forgiveness. "I will forgive you." God hasn't changed any tonight. God hasn't changed any tonight. I know He made this promise to Israel. However, that same promise is reality today.

When we sin today, if we will repent, if we will humble ourselves, if we will pray and seek and His face; He will forgive us. He will forgive our sins. The...will be forgiveness. Do you know what He will do? He will heal our lives. He will make some great changes in our life.

Not only that, again, He made the wonderful promise here about the temple that every prayer that was offered up, when you read verse 15, God said, "I will hear and I will answer. You pray in this place, you pray in this building..." God said, "I will answer." That is a great promise. Don't you think? All you have to do is come to God's house and pray and God says, I'm going to hear that prayer. That is an awesome promise. Do you know that? The God of heaven is going to hear our prayers. That is what He made a promise here unto Solomon.

In verse 16, he talked about sanctification and being set apart. That is what He did for the temple. There was no other temple, no other building like this place. As I said this morning, no doubt, it was worth untold billions of dollars. It took twenty odd years to build. Yet God said, "I've set it apart. This is the place that I have sanctified. This is the place that if you guys will come and offer prayers and your sacrifices; I will answer your prayers. I will accept your sacrifices."

God also made some personal promises. He says here in verse 17, He says here, "I will bless you. I will bless you if you will be obedient to me, I will bless you." He says, "You must walk in integrity. You must walk in righteousness. You must walk in obedience, if you want..." He was talking to Israel, but He is talking the same thing to you and me today.

God wants to bless us. God takes pleasure in blessing His people. However, we must walk in integrity. We must walk a truthful life. We must walk in righteousness and obedience if we expect God to bless us.

Not only that but also, He promised him a dynasty here. His sons were going to sit upon the throne here, after him, when you read verse 18. I'm going somewhere. We are getting there just in a moment.

He also warned him in verse 19 about personal judgement. "Solomon, if you don't walk in my ways then judgment is coming. Solomon, if you don't walk in integrity, and you don't live righteously, and you are not obedient to me then...there is are going to be issues when you read verse 19. There are going to be problems for disobedience.

One of the big things with the children of Israel was the apostacy. When you look at the word *apostacy*, it simply means someone or a group of people that has walked away from their religious convictions. That is what apostacy means.

Israel knew the truth. They knew what truth was. God spoke to them the truth. They knew what it was. They worshiped God. They had some great and awesome times, but yet they walked away from that. They walked away from Him. They renounced their faith in Him. They turned their back upon Him. They abandoned Him. They did that by disobeying His voice and His Word. They did that by worshiping all kinds of false gods. Do you know what He promised? He promised judgment, when you look at verse 20. Since you have done that He said, "I'm going to pluck you out of this land. If you do that Solomon, and this people does that I'm going to cut off from the promised land. You will see this temple and everything that is here; you will see rejected, Solomon, if you turn from me. This place will be mocked and it will be ridiculed. Solomon, if you guys are disobedient, and turn your back upon me and renounce me as your God and serve other gods then I am going to pluck you out of this place." He says here, "The temple will be a place of ridicule. It will be a place of mockery. It will be a place when people walk by it, they will hiss, and they will mock and they will use the place for a by word, Solomon, if you sin."

Listen. God is serious. God is serious about us worshiping Him. God is serious about us sinning against Him.

When you read verse 21, He says, "You guys will suffer terrible, terrible...destruction...that will come."

Here is the big problem when you look at verse 22. The judgement was going to come because of apostasy, because of idolatry, because they turned away from the One that had saved them and they embraced false gods. Solomon did fine for a while. The children of Israel did fine for a while. But it wasn't too long that Solomon—do you know what he did? He married a whole bunch of heathen women.

You have heard me say it before. I believe he had 700 wives, and 300 concubines. Solomon had a screw loose somewhere to have that many women around. Do you know what they did? They were heathen women. They were women that were daughters and people's daughters from other nations. They were given to him because he would bless the nations. He brought all these strange women in and do you know what they led him to do? They led him into apostasy. They led him to deny the true and living God.

Do you know what he did? He built houses of worship for all these gods. When you read the Bible, you will find out that some of the places he built here, right beside this temple that God said if you come here and pray, if you come here and sacrifice, this place that I have set apart; he built them right adjoining to it for his heathen women to worship in.

I said all of that to say this tonight. Our lesson this morning, I believe it was about 959 BC; so that is 960 years before Christ was born. If you fast forward 240 years from this date. Do you know what happens? What Solomon was promised by Almighty God, in the vision of this night, when the temple was built, just exactly what God promised came to pass. In 720, we know the Assyrians came and carried the ten northern tribes away. We know that 100 years or so after that, we know that Nebuchadnezzar came. He came to Jerusalem. Do you know what he did? He tore the place down brick by brick... The beautiful temple that was worth untold billions of dollars, a place God said, I put my name. A place that God said if you come here and pray, I am going to answer your prayer. A place you can come and offer your sacrifices and I will bless you if you will just live in obedience. However, sin set in. Nebuchadnezzar came and the place was torn down brick by brick, stone by stone... They took all of the gold. We know they carried it to Babylon. No doubt thousands and thousands of people died. Just like God told Solomon that would happen if they were disobedient to Him.

Listen. Disobedience with God is a serious thing. I hope you understand that our relationship with God when we say that we love God and we say that we are God's people, sin is a very serious thing with God. He will deal with it. He will deal with it in my life. He will deal with it in your life.

As I read to you tonight, I am going to read from Luke 19. This event is happening right after the events—Jesus has been to Jericho. He was coming through Jericho. You remember the story of Bartimaeus. You remember the story of Zacchaeus. Do you remember those stories? He has saved Zacchaeus. He has healed Bartimaeus. He comes to Jerusalem. This is happening...the Sunday before He is going to die on Friday. This is what we call Palm Sunday. Today is Palm Sunday. The events that I am going to read to you tonight, happened on this Sunday, before Jesus was going to die on Friday. Does everybody get that?

Look what happens here. Look down in verse 29...

**Luke 19:29** And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called *the mount* of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,

**Luke 19:30** Saying, *Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.*

**Luke 19:31** *And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.*

**Luke 19:32** And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.

**Luke 19:33** And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?

**Luke 19:34** And they said, The Lord hath need of him.

**Luke 19:35** And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

**Luke 19:36** And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.

**Luke 19:37** And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

**Luke 19:38** Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

**Luke 19:39** And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

**Luke 19:40** And he answered and said unto them, *I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

**Luke 19:41** And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

**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.*

**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,*

**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.

**Luke 19:45** And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought;

**Luke 19:46** Saying unto them, **It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

If you read the book of Zachariah, chapter 9, verse 9; you will find out that Zachariah had prophesied that when Messiah, the King would come, He would come in just exactly like Jesus is coming here. He is going to come in riding a donkey, a very humble animal.

We think about donkeys sometimes as not being much—in today's society they are not—but during this time, and during Jesus' time, kings rode donkeys. When it was in peace time, they rode donkeys. If they were going to go into battle they would be riding some kind of a white stallion or something. However, in peace time they rode donkeys. Zachariah said that when Jesus, the Messiah, the King of Israel comes into Jerusalem and presents himself as the King; He is going to be coming riding upon a donkey. That is what Zachariah said.

Do you know what Jesus had to do? He had to do that. Because He had to fulfill everything that the prophets and the Law said that He would do; He had to do that. We know that He did that.

I'm not going to talk about all that story, because there is a wonderful story there. I want to talk about what happens here. As they go get the animals and they come back, they put Jesus on one of the animals, on the colt actually, when you read the story. Mommy is going to walk beside of them here. They put their clothes on the donkey. They put some of them in the way. They go down the streets that is leading into Jerusalem. They are cutting the palm leaves off the sides of the road and laying them in the way and Jesus Christ is riding down the streets. There are people lined up everywhere.

If you read much history, you will find out that there could have been as much as two million people in the city of Jerusalem because it was Passover time. It was a very busy place.

As Jesus was coming, do you know what starts happening? People starts praising God. There were some in the crowd that understood that hey, this really is the Messiah. This really is the One that the prophets spoke about that was going to come. He is coming this way. They begin to cry out Hosanna. Do you know what that means? That means "Save us now." No doubt, it was a time of worship, a time of shouting, a time of great noise, a time of great jubilation for the people that were there. However, as He goes into the city the Bible says this.

**Luke 19:41** And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

You will read that Jesus wept two times in scripture. One was here and one was at Lazarus tomb. He gets nigh to the city, He sees all the commotion. He sees all that is

going on. He sees all the people crying and hallowing and shouting “Hosanna; save us now...” Yet when He got there, He looks around and the Bible says that He wept.

I thought today, this is the thought. What did He see that made Him weep? What was it in His heart and in His mind as He was riding into Jerusalem, these five or six days before He was going to die; what did He see in the crowd? What did He see in the city? What did He see in people’s hearts? What did He see in people’s lives that made Him cry, that made Him weep, that was so much concern to Him that the Son of God wept?

I thought today—I didn’t study much today—but as I thought today, probably two or three things that I want to talk about that He saw. He probably looked backwards and saw all the opportunities that this nation had had. It probably could have been in His mind the very lesson that we read this morning, where God said, Solomon, if you do right, if you live a righteous life, if you live a life of obedience; Solomon, I will bless you. I will take care of you. I will provide for you. I will meet with you in this place. Solomon, I will show favor upon you and I will fight your battles. I will protect you. I will bless your family. Solomon I will do all of that. However, He also could see what happened when Nebuchadnezzar came.

God sent prophet after prophet to warn the people. We know that they go and spend 70 years in Egypt and they come back. There is Zerubbabel, Haggai, and the rest of them. They rebuilt the temple—a real small place. That temple that they built back when they came back, in 536, is a temple that is standing here when Jesus is here on this particular day, in Jerusalem 5 or 6 days before He is going to die; that is the same temple that has been there for several hundred years. Do you know what Jesus looked around and saw? Not only did He look backwards and see all the opportunities that these folks had just thrown away, all the time that they could have been worshipping God, all the great fellowship, and the enjoyment of life that they could have enjoyed was gone and will never come again because of disobedience.

Listen. You may sell your car today and you might buy another one tomorrow but today is gone forever and it will never be back. You can’t roll back the clock. The opportunities that we took advantage of today that God has blessed us with today, if we took advantage of them, that is great. But if we haven’t they may not be here tomorrow. Time doesn’t stop.

Jesus, no doubt, looks back at all the turmoil and all the death, and all the dying that happened because of the disobedience of these people. No doubt, He looked around as He looked at the crowd there. Do you know what He could see? He saw something that most people couldn’t see. He saw their hearts. He knew who they really were. He knew what was really going on in their minds. Even though some of them may have been crying out, you are the Son of David. You are the Messiah. Do you know what Jesus knew? Jesus knew the majority of the people did not know who He was. He knew that they had wasted and were wasting time, very precious time. He had been with them three years or so. He had preached. He had taught. He had saved people.

He had changed people's lives. He had raised people from the dead. He did exactly what the prophet said the Messiah would do when He came, yet they couldn't see it. They wouldn't grasp it. Jesus Christ saw that. He saw the opportunity that they had wasted. Do you know what He knew? He knew it was over. He knew that it was over. The opportunities that had let go through their hands would never ever come again.

Listen. We don't need to waste our opportunities today. In the day and the time that we are living in, you have got people that are dying. I've got people that are dying. You have got friends that are dying. We take sometimes so for granted that we are going to be here tomorrow. We take so much for granted that they are going to be here tomorrow. However, they may not be here tomorrow at all. We may not be here tomorrow. Not only that but none of us may be here tomorrow. Do you know why? Because Jesus Christ may come.

He looked behind, no doubt, and saw all the opportunities and all the destruction that came by disobedience. He looked at all this crowd.

I thought many times, actually I thought a few years ago when we went to one of the theme parks. The kids were running a playing. No doubt there were tens of thousands of people there. You would go over and sit down on the bench and just watch people. Do you know what you can tell about people? The majority of them were not saved.

Here is what I thought. If you read a little bit, do you know what you will find out? Every hundred years, the population of the world changes. If you are alive today, you won't be here a hundred years from now. Amen! Get this. There are seven billion people on planet earth today, or close to that. In the next 50 years, 3.5 billion people are going to die in the next 50 years. That is a staggering number. Amen! Do you know what? In the last 50 years, probably not that many because there weren't that many; but look at the billions of people that have died in the last hundred years, or the last two hundred years. Look at the billions and billions of people that have died. Then think, what kind of an impact are we really having? How many of these people were saved? How many of these people have wasted their opportunity, just like these Jewish people did.

I learned something that I did not know. Jesus not only looked behind, He looked at the crowd, but He also looked ahead. He said, "I'm going to tell you something. If only you would have known, if only you would have taken of the opportunity of me being here; "of you day of visitation." That is what that means. If only you would have taken opportunity, if only you would have known who I was, if only you would have known; you could have headed off so much disaster in your life, so much disaster in the nation.

One of the biggest reasons that the children of Israel did not recognize Jesus Christ is that they had taken the Word that God had spoken to Moses about—it could have been this thick—but by the time they got through adding their thoughts and their phrases to it, you probably could not have hauled it in a truck. Do you know what they did with it? They diluted it down so much that it was nothing like the Word of God that God gave to Moses.

I went to a home not very long ago, and they must have had 30 books there about the Bible but I did not see a Bible anywhere. You can read all the book you want to about the Bible and that is great, but do you know what the number one book is that you need to be reading? The Bible. Amen! It got so watered down and diluted.

We have so many translations today out there in the world today, when you read some of them, it is a disgrace to even call them a Bible. Do you know why? Because they are taking what God said and what God meant and twisted it into meaning something else. These people had done that. Here is one thing then I am going to quit.

He warned them. Your enemies are going to come. You have rejected me but your enemies are going to come. They are going to come and they are going to lay this place flat on the ground. Everything that is here they are going to lay it flat on the ground. Sounds familiar. Doesn't it? Sounds familiar of what God said that was going to happen to the original temple. It sounds familiar of what Nebuchadnezzar did to the original temple. God says, "Hey, this temple you have here now is going to be flat with the ground." Do you know what Jesus looks around and sees? He sees in just 40 short years, Jesus here is around 30 AD or 32 AD when He is making this statement. Jesus knew in 40 years, in 70 AD, there would be a Roman general by the name of Titus that would come to Jerusalem. Do you know what Jesus knew? Jesus knew that there were going to be 600,000 of them that were going to die. Jesus knew that. He did not say that here. Do you know why I can say that? Because Jesus knows everything.

I know when I read history—you don't read much about this in history—in 70 AD when Titus came, he besieged the city for 140 some days and killed 600,000 men, women, and children. Do you know why? Because this nation threw away their opportunity. They threw it away.

We are not going to follow you. When you read the parable do you know what you will find out? They said we don't want this guy to reign over us. amen! We don't want this guy called Jesus to reign over us and they didn't. Do you know what happened? When Titus came, the temple was torn down. That was in 70 AD. Today is 2018, and do you know what? There is no temple there today. The temple has not been rebuilt in all these years. Do you know why? Because people threw away their opportunity to worship God.

It is a serious thing. It is a serious thing. We fast forward several hundred years and we know that six million died in the holocaust. Horrible time. Tragedy, and murder like we could never imagine.

Listen. Let's don't throw our opportunities away. Let's do not throw our opportunities away. Let's make sure that we are following Jesus Christ today. Let's make sure that every promise that God has made us in this book that we embrace; and we embrace it with all the fever that we can, and all the strength that we can. Let's get hold of it with both hands and hang onto it. listen. People are dying lost. Millions and millions of people are dying lost. Do you know what it is up to? It is up to you and me, God's

people, to do everything we can to persuade people to turn from their sin and get right with Jesus Christ.

Listen. It is time and high time that we do that. I thought today, 25 to 40 years ago, churches would come together and have a revival in the community. Churches would come together. Baptists, Nazarene, Catholics, Pentecostals; it didn't matter where you went to church, if you were having revival, people would come. They would worship. They would hug your neck. You could hug their neck. It was just a great time. Things have changed. We could have revival at our own church and it is hard sometimes to get people to come. With all the other activities we get involved in it is hard to get people to come.

Here is the thing. I promise you there is going to come a day that we are going to understand how serious it has been on the time that we have wasted on stuff that did not matter.

Jesus warned them. He looked out. There was so much concern in Him that He wept because of their unbelief. He wept because they did not believe Him. He wept because of all the opportunities they had squandered and thrown away. He wept because of what He knew was going to come in just a short time. You know those things came to pass. That is history. You can read that in your history book. Disaster and destruction came.

Listen. Let's don't turn away from God. Let's live every day the very best that we can. Let's follow Him every day with every bit of energy that we have, so that we can persuade some to make things right with the Lord before it is everlasting too late.

Come and pray—