

I Would Ye Would Not!

Matthew 23:37 **O** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!** 38 Behold, your **house is left unto you desolate.** 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, **till** ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

1. The intense love Jesus felt for a people that had rejected Him 37 **O** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!**
 - a. Jesus loves people, souls
 - i. See the word **O**
 - ii. Can you hear the hurt
 - iii. Can you hear the compassion as He realizes that they have rejected Him
 - b. This statement comes at the end of such a battle with the religious leaders
 - i. The battle starts after His arrival in Jerusalem 21:1 And when they **drew nigh unto Jerusalem**, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,
 - ii. They had welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem like the Messiah, the King of Kings 21:8 And **a very great multitude** spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way. 9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, **Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**
 - iii. He had gone to the temple and cast out the moneychangers that had made His temple a den of thieves 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the **house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**
 - iv. He had cursed the fig tree as a message that Israel was being rejected as His vessel to carry the gospel to the world 21:19 And when he saw a **fig tree** in the way, he

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- came to it, and **found nothing thereon**, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.
- v. He told the story of the man that had two sons and showed them that the wicked people were getting saved but not the religious leaders 21:28 But what think ye? A **certain man had two sons**; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.
 - vi. He told the story of the householder who wanted his fruit and the workers killed his messengers and his son 21:38 But when the husbandmen **saw the son**, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us **kill him**, and let us seize on his inheritance.
 - vii. Because of their constant rejection of His messengers God would remove them from His service as the means of grace to the world 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The **kingdom of God shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
 - viii. He tells them the story of the wedding feast and how they rejected the invitation 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a **marriage for his son**,
 - ix. As the religious leaders heard how they had rejected Him over and over instead of repenting they began to argue with Him 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might **entangle him in his talk**.
 - x. He finally has reprimanded them for being false teachers and blind guides 23:24 Ye **blind guides**, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.
- c. They were truly the people that killed the prophets and all messengers from God 37 **O** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!**
- i. Repeatedly God had sent messengers to them and they had rejected the message
 - ii. He in love had given them opportunity after opportunity
- d. Israel is God's people

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- i. They have rejected Him as a nation
 - ii. He will not reject them as the vessel to carry the gospel
 - iii. But He is not through with them and will use them once again
 - iv. Remember that His rejection was as a nation not as individuals
 - v. The apostles who will start the church are Jews themselves
- e. This is Jesus final farewell to Jerusalem
- i. Though He patiently calls and works with people you must realize that there will be a day when He no longer works
 - ii. He says farewell, no more pleading, no more inviting
 - iii. If you continue to reject Him you can know that sooner or later He will no longer call you

2. Jesus repeatedly called lovingly 37 **○** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!**

- a. He has shown great patience and tenderness in spite of harsh treatment
- b. He had wanted to gather them under His wings to protect them
 - i. This is the picture of love and tender care
 - ii. It was a willingness to die to protect others
 - iii.** He came to die for His people and yet they would not receive Him John 1:11 He came unto his own, and **his own received him not.**
- c. With stretched out arms He has invited all to come to Him Matthew 11:28 **Come unto me,** all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest. 29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.
- d. God wants to use your life for His service
 - i. You have the Scriptures
 - ii. You know what God would have us all do to spread His gospel, His grace, His Word

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- iii. But like Israel maybe you have been more focused on you than on Him and what He would have you to do
- iv. You read Matthew 6:33 in your own way But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - 1. You think in terms of seeking first your family and there benefit
 - 2. You think in terms of seeking your future, your finances, or your fame
 - 3. You think in terms of any thing but really giving your life to seek first His kingdom
- v. For you to live is many things before it is really to do what the Lord Jesus Christ would have you do Philippians 1:21 For **to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**
 - 1. For you to live is to be successful in business
 - 2. For you to live is to provide security for your family
 - 3. For you to live is for someone else to give their life serving Jesus
 - 4. To die would be to not have a happy home
 - 5. To die would be to not live for yourself
- e. If you examine your life you will probably realize how many times God has dealt with you.
 - i. He has lovingly called you
 - ii. He has shown you your sin
 - iii. If you have felt your need
 - iv. You have been unwilling to humble yourself
 - v. Now He is calling again, what will you say today?

- 3. They would not respond to His loving call 37 **○** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!**
 - a. He calls and they refuse to come John 5:40 And **ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**

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- b. It is not God's fault that you are not saved
 - c. You have no one to blame but yourself John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.
 - d. Your lack of faith and obedience is simply you choosing to do your own thing instead of serving Jesus
 - e. Trust Christ today
4. Rejecting Jesus brought judgment 38 Behold, your **house is left unto you desolate.**
- a. By 70 AD Jerusalem was a heap of ruins
 - b. God is no longer using Israel as His vessel of grace
 - c. The once great nation of Israel is on the sidelines of God's work today
 - i. They gave us the Scriptures
 - ii. They gave us the Savior
 - iii. They were greatly used of God but slowly turned from doing His will to doing their own
 - d. Israel has been placed to one side and God is now using the church I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
 - i. The church was made up of Jew and Gentile
 - ii. The Bible never teaches that there is to be a Jewish church and a separate Gentile church
 - iii. He broke down the middle wall of partition making both one Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath **made both one**, and hath **broken down the middle wall of partition *between us***;
 - e. God is using you and your church today but if we fail to do His will in our lives then He will choose to work through another church

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- f. God's work will not be stopped but I may not be allowed to be part of what He is doing
5. Jesus will return to use Israel and Jerusalem again one day 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, **till** ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
- a. Jesus will now build His church here on earth
Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church;** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it
- b. He will then return and take His church to heaven
I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are **asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have **no hope. 14** For if we believe that **Jesus died and rose again**, even so them also which sleep in Jesus **will God bring with him. 15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are **alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the **Lord himself shall descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are **alive and remain** shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we **ever be with the Lord. 18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
- c. Then there will be a time of tribulation on the earth
- d. When He returns all Israel shall be saved Romans 11:26 And so **all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **27** For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
- e. We await His return.
- i. Every time we take the Lord's supper we think about His soon return
- ii. Every time we preach we know that it might be our last time to preach His gospel
- iii. We know that He is coming back to get us
- iv. Are you ready?

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- f. Are you sure of your salvation?
- g. Are you serving like someone who truly believes that He is coming again?

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