

Monday: Contrasting Emotions

For today's journey, read Luke 19:41-46

REFLECT

Jesus begins today descending from the east toward Jerusalem from the heights of the Mount of Olives. As He walks toward Jerusalem, He gets a beautiful panoramic view of the city. His response to the sight is overwhelming sorrow. This is not just weeping, the Greek word implies Jesus crumbled into “painful sobs.” In contrast, the day ends with Jesus ejecting abusive leaders and workers in the temple who were using their power and pull to get rich off worshippers gathered there for Passover that week. It is a forceful endeavor. In fact, the word used to “drive out” these miscreants is the same word used to “repel” an enemy or “expel” a demon. We are intended to see Jesus’ anger over ritualistic religious abuse.

Jesus experienced a great range of emotions on this day but all of them reveal to us His passion for the purity of His mission. His heart is broken when we do not respond to His extensions of love and His anger is kindled over those who use His Name to exploit or abuse others. But none of those emotions distracted Him from His goal to complete the Father’s will: to give His own life in order to save ours. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” Jesus’ expressed emotions on Monday give us freedom to experience our own in this broken world. We can be sad over the effects of sin in our world. We can even be angered by the way our world hurts one another. However, regardless of the emotions we navigate as we shine as light in this dark world, may one emotion overwhelm and guide all others. May we be as fixed on the ultimate goal as our Savior was: to love God and love others relentlessly.

ASK

- As you put yourself into this scene in Luke, what are your reactions to Jesus’ demonstrated emotions?
- Emotions of sadness or anger sometimes cause us to sin. How do you think Jesus experienced these emotions without sinning?
- How do you think Jesus feels today when he looks upon the earth?
- What person or people groups do you need God to soften your heart towards?

Pray that personal attitude toward sin doesn't distract your love for God & others in this world.