

**ARTICLE—Palm Sunday: Reading the Bible through new eyes**  
**By Bob Young**

The Christian calendar identifies the Sunday before Easter as Palm Sunday, Triumphal Entry, a day of weeping over Jerusalem. In 2015, Jan and I saw these places—the road descending from the Mount of Olives, the Kidron Valley, the east side of the city where Jesus would have entered Jerusalem to go to the temple.

Due to some calendar quirks, the day Christians observe Easter does not always correspond to the Jewish calendar. This year Passover is not until late April. Nonetheless, this is the right time of the year. Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover (John 12:1)—apparently Friday. The Gospels do not tell about the Sabbath day of rest. On the first day of the week, Jesus sent his disciples to a village (perhaps Bethphage) to get a donkey. In a triumphal procession, he then rode down from the Mount of Olives, most likely past the Gethsemane garden where olives were pressed, across the Kidron Valley, and into Jerusalem. Crowds assembled, including some Pharisees (Luke 19:39). An often-overlooked detail—as Jesus came nearer Jerusalem, he wept over the city (Luke 19:41). If you spend any time at all thinking about the Triumphal Entry, let me encourage you to weep and grieve about those who have not found peace in Jesus.

Final historical detail: when Jesus arrived at the city, he went to the temple (Mark 11:11) but because it was already late in the day, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve. (Matthew and Luke include the cleansing of the temple immediately, but Mark makes clear that this occurred on Monday).

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**SERMON—Weeping for those who have no peace**  
**By Bob Young**

**Introduction**

We live in a world wrought with conflict. Wars are seemingly continual. Families are conflicted. Churches are conflicted. Christians are internally conflicted.

People seek peace in the wrong places.

Prophets are still crying “peace, peace” where there is no peace.

**Today’s text: Luke 19:41**

- Jesus wept for those who had not found God’s peace
- Jesus wept for those who could not see the source of genuine peace
- Jesus died to give them peace

**What does this text mean for you and for me?**

- The Christian world wants to celebrate more than it wants to cry.
- The Christian world at this season largely ignores this detail: the triumphant Jesus understood the spiritual needs of the world. The triumph the world sees is physical. The triumph Jesus saw was spiritual. Jesus’ triumph and victory came through suffering and death.
- The church must learn to cry. Christians must learn lament, how to deal with God in difficult days. The church must learn prophetic lament, crying over the lost world, unable to sleep, unable to rest, unable to stop doing everything possible for the salvation of the world. Today’s text occurs in a larger context that includes Luke 19:10. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
- Following Jesus means seeking the lost. Following Jesus means opening eyes to see real peace. Following Jesus means spending oneself so Jesus’ reason for dying is known to as many as possible.

**How to respond to this sermon—**

- Pray, lament, grieve over the things Jesus laments
- Be specific in prayer; be creative in prayer
- Pray for your family, for families generally
- Pray for your church, for conflicted churches; work toward resolution and peace
- Seek to touch the lives of others; see new opportunities, new goals, and new dreams
- Ask yourself how you can be a part of bringing God’s peace to others