



SEE IT

Luke 19:41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to *weep*”.

Luke 13:34 ‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me’ ”.

OBEY IT

We can learn three lessons from today’s text.

1. **Sinful lifestyle doesn’t deter a demonstration of love.** Jerusalem had a history of being a “city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers” and that refused to be corrected (“you wouldn’t let me”). Yet, Jesus loved it, ministered to it, preached in it, and sought to transform it anyway!
2. **Instead of leaving, love.** When Jesus saw the need, He went toward and not away from Jerusalem. He knew very well that the treatment He would receive there would not be pleasant, but His heart longed to save the people of the city.
3. **Love is more than a feeling for the city, it is action in the city.** Jesus cried for the city and had compassion for the people living there. That was wonderful, but not enough. He took those feelings and put them into action as He healed, preached, and helped. The purpose of these lessons is to spur you and your congregation to action.

SHARE IT

1. Stamps in Front of the Post Office. One church holds a major stamp outreach on April 15th for late tax-filers. Volunteers stand by the mail drop-off boxes with a card table filled with food and stamps.
2. Gatorade at Biking Trails. Some health-conscious folks like runners, bikers, and other people don’t drink soda at all. Set up at along a bike trail, athletic field, or hiking trail and offer Gatorade or bottled water to exercisers.
3. Pay Library Fines. Leave \$20.00 at the front desk in the local library, and instruct the clerk to use it for the next person who has fines.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, help me love my city, not leave it. Help me do all that can to show them. Amen.

My Thoughts _____



SEE IT

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be *served*, but to *serve*, and to give his life as a ransom for many”.

OBEY IT

Three important principles we can learn from this lesson are:

1. **Service broadens your impact.** When we serve, we impact three groups of people in a positive way—the one who serves, the ones you serve, and the ones you serve with. This is especially important for the younger generation, who love to see the church engaging the community in practical ways.
2. **Service honors God, blesses people, and changes perceptions.** A leading proponent of servant evangelism puts it this way: “Servant evangelism softens the hearts of persons who are not yet Christians—people who often think the church exists only for itself or that it only wants people’s time and money. By doing a ‘low-risk’ activity that shows ‘high grace,’ those resistant to the faith may (now or in the future) become more open to the saving message of Jesus Christ.”
3. **Service is more than an event.** It is not something we do once in a while to placate the conscience, appease the leadership, or satisfy a requirement. In order to make this a priority in our churches, we must do four things: Schedule it. Fund it. Model it. Speak about it.

SHARE IT

1. Bait at Local Fishing Spots: Those who fish with live bait need worms, grubs, goldfish, minnows, or whatever. Purchase these critters in large quantities from a bait shop, go to the local fishing hot-spot and give them away.
2. Pay Laundromat Washer and Dryer: Bring a roll or two of quarters and dimes. As patrons enter, ask them if they’d like hot or cold wash. You can also provide detergent. Note: This works best for women—it’s a bit odd for men to reach out to women in this setting.
3. Hand Cleaning Towelettes: Pretty much everything in downtown shopping areas is a bit dirty, but there’s really no place to wash up. Give them this.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, help me understand how service can impact our world for you. Amen.

My Thoughts _____