

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

How Often I Have Longed to Gather your Children Together

Luke 13: 34 and Matthew 23: 37

In the last half of Luke's Gospel he tells the narrative of Jesus' long and meandering journey toward Jerusalem. In some ways it is more of a philosophical journey than it is a trip; it is more of a destiny than it is a destination. Jesus is going to the Cross. The last steps of the way begin with the triumphal entry followed by increasing conflict and culminating at Calvary. For the Holy Trinity, despite knowing full well the outcome, it is the last offer of restoration to a wayward nation before a very long interval lasting two millennia.

I. A Bittersweet Processional

- A. Luke 13:34-35—Jesus' heart and longing for Jerusalem
- B. Luke 19:35-44 (41)—Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- C. Triumph and tragedy, a fickle crowd and a hard city

II. If I Could See This World Through Your Eyes

- A. Spurned love—from Adam to Jerusalem
- B. Divine conquest and the royal law
- C. Promise and fulfillment

III. If We Only Knew How Much He Loves Us

- A. An everlasting love
- B. Rejoicing over us with singing
- C. Heaven rejoices over one sinner that repents
- D. The Father's joy in a prodigal's return

The unifying thread through all of Scripture is the love of God for a lost human race; and the love of God for every human being. God loves us collectively, and He loves us personally and individually. It is the occupation of His existence in this time to win back all who have gone astray. He does not want to lose a single person. He invites us first to come back to Him, and then to join Him in the pursuit of all who are still wandering away from His presence.

