**Knowing Christ’s Visitation**

***41****And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,****42****saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.****43****For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side****44****and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

***45****And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold,****46****saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”*

***47****And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him,****48****but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words. (Luke 19:41-48, ESV)*

 Every day is Palm Sunday if we recognize our Lord’s entrances. Welcome dear brothers and sisters to our Palm Sunday worship service. I pray that today’s messages will be a blessing and a reason for each of us to renew our spiritual lives. Palm Sunday has been a joyous celebration for Armenians, and we are so happy to see our little ones processing with their big candles, symbolizing that they are both followers and spreaders of God’s light (who is Christ). Today we’re going to talk about God’s visitations. Palm Sunday is one of the clearest examples of God’s visitations, and our responses to it are crucial for our faith. Again, every day is Palm Sunday if we recognize the Lord’s interventions and entrances. Let’s see how…

 Jesus did not only visit Jerusalem, but us also, even until today, if only we recognize Him when He is entering. Today’s Scripture passage can seem a bit heavy for our joyous occasion if we focus only on the first few verses: Jesus was approaching Jerusalem and when he saw the city, he wept over it because He already knew the stance that the leaders had taken against Him. He knew what the consequences of their rejection of Him was going to be. He was hurting for them because they were going to punished severely for their pride and (willful) blindness.

 However, Jesus did not only come to be recognized. He also entered the city to cleanse its spiritual center (the Temple) and to show what kind of atmosphere was appropriate for the heart of the people of God. In addition, He also wanted to teach the people God’s ways and a Godly lifestyle. What is interesting is that the simple people accepted Him – but the proud did not.

 Very often we suppose that our spiritual life grows with the accumulation of information or through an abundance of external spiritual expression – but it is the humble that understands the heart and purpose of why Jesus came. It is like that tax collector who was praying not in an ostentatious way, but off to the side, repentant, with a contrite heart. In that parable of Jesus, it was the tax collector who was in the right, while the Pharisee, the supposed “believer” and “religious expert” who was wrong in his pride.[[1]](#footnote-1)

 Today we are celebrating the entrance of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. However, the Lord has already entered our lives if we believe in Him and are devoted to Him. This is not the only time, however, that the Lord wants to make an entrance into our life. He wants to be involved in our work, our joy, our rest, even our peace – because these are only valuable when Jesus is in them.

 Today, I’m inviting you to recognize Jesus, who was not only the Savior of Israel but the whole world, when He knocks on the doors of your hearts. Yes, Jesus arrives at the doorstep of our lives every day, not only for recognition, but also to cleanse us, to forgive us and to teach us. All of that starts when we recognize Him as our Lord and Savior.

 Dear brother and sister, today the Lord has already sent us His Spirit, and He wants to be part of our lives in a greater way. He does not want us to stay away from Him, only allowing Him to speak to us once in a while. Rather, He is inviting us to consistently be with His people, read His Word, and hear His teachings.

 May the Lord wake each of us up, so that we give Jesus a chance to be and to work in our lives. If we say pridefully that we do not need Him, then He is already weeping over our sorry condition. But if we agree to give Him a chance, He will cleanse, teach, and help us.

 Every day is Palm Sunday if we recognize the Lord’s interventions and entrances.

 May the Lord Bless You all.

1. See Luke 18:9-14 for the parable in full. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)