

"If you are determined to learn,
nobody can stop you. If you are not
willing to learn, no one can help you."

A TIME TO CRY...A TIME TO CHANGE

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY
RODMAN STREET
CHURCH 3.29.26

A TIME TO CRY...A TIME TO CHANGE!

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LUKE 19:41-44

3.29.26

Title: A Time to Cry, A Time to Change: Recognizing God's Visitation

Sermon Summary: This powerful Palm Sunday message confronts us with a sobering reality: we can be physically close to Jesus yet spiritually disconnected from His purpose. Drawing from Luke 19:41-44, we witness Jesus weeping over Jerusalem—not because of His own impending suffering, but because the people failed to recognize their moment of divine visitation. They had access to the Messiah but lacked spiritual awareness. They were praising Him for what they wanted while missing Him for who He was. This distinction challenges us today: How many of us have access to God's presence through churches, Bibles, and worship experiences, yet remain untransformed?

The pastor emphasizes that Jesus wept not out of weakness but out of love for people who had access to Him yet failed to recognize His presence and purpose. The message challenges believers to examine whether they are merely present in church or truly connected to Christ's transformative power. Using the vision of the "Community of Hope" and the LIFE MALE STEAM Academy as modern examples, the sermon calls for active engagement with God's assignments rather than passive religious activity. The core message warns that privilege without perception, opportunity without action, and proximity without relationship lead to spiritual loss and divine sorrow.

The sermon identifies three reasons for Jesus's tears—lost privileges, lost opportunities, and lost souls. We are reminded that privilege without relationship leads to ruin, that delayed obedience is disobedience, and that lost souls aren't just 'out there' but may be sitting in our pews. The vision of the Community of Hope serves as a modern parallel to Jesus's heart for transformation—not just building structures but rebuilding lives, restoring families, and redirecting futures. This message calls us from passive church attendance to active kingdom participation, from religious activity to genuine spiritual alignment. The question isn't whether we have access to God, but whether we recognize and respond to His visitation in our lives right now.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem

An exploration of Palm Sunday when Jesus wept over Jerusalem, revealing how we can be close to Christ in proximity but disconnected from His purpose and power.

Chapter 2: Lost Privileges: Access Without Awareness

We explore how privilege equals access to God's presence, truth, and power, but access alone does not guarantee transformation without genuine relationship and response.

Chapter 3: Lost Opportunities: Missing God's Visitation

We learn that opportunity is a divine moment when God is moving, speaking, and opening doors, and delayed obedience is still disobedience.

Chapter 4: Lost Souls: Separation from God's Purpose

We discover that lost souls are not just in the streets but all around us, and when a soul is reached, everything else can be restored.

Key Points:

- Jesus cries over lost privileges - having access to God's presence without awareness or transformation
- Delayed obedience is disobedience; missed divine moments have real consequences
- You can be in the crowd and still miss the Christ; proximity doesn't guarantee spiritual connection
- Religion without relationship leads to ruin; form without power is meaningless
- Privilege equals access to God's presence, truth, and power, but access doesn't guarantee transformation
- God's visitation requires recognition and response; divine opportunities have specific timing
- Lost souls are not just "out there" but in our homes, schools, and even churches
- The Community of Hope vision represents divine assignment, not just good ideas
- Change requires stepping into privilege, seizing opportunities, and reaching lost souls
- Jesus weeps not because He lacks power but because people lack perception

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 19:41-44 (primary passage): Jesus weeping over Jerusalem

- John 1:11: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not"
- Luke 12:48: "For unto whom much is given, much is required"
- 2 Timothy 3:5: Having a form of godliness but denying the power
- Isaiah 29:13: Honoring God with lips while hearts are far from Him
- 2 Corinthians 6:2: "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation"
- Hebrews 3:15: "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts"
- 2 Peter 3:9: God is "not willing that any should perish"
- Ezekiel 37: "Can these bones live?"

Stories:

- The pastor's experience at Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church in Wilson, NC, where he served for 15 years and led the "Block of Hope" vision, resulting in debt retirement and community transformation
- The founding of LIFE Male STEAM Academy on September 11, 2014, when God gave the pastor the complete vision overnight, including the school's name, colors, curriculum, and mascot (Kings)
- Personal testimony of missing a flight to Wilson for a funeral when his boarding pass wouldn't load on his phone, illustrating how people can have everything they need but still miss their moment
- Reference to the movie "Terminator" and the character John Connor as an illustration of how the enemy tries to destroy potential before it's realized

- The story of the top student at LIFE Male STEAM Academy who is on the autism spectrum but thrives when given the right environment and belief
- Marvin Gaye's song "What's Going On" referenced as relevant social commentary
- The parable of the prodigal son referenced to illustrate that being lost is about separation, not location
- Personal childhood memories of streetlights signaling time to come home, contrasting with modern lack of structure

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Luke 19:41-44** - Primary text about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem
2. **Ezekiel 37** - "Can These Bones Live?" (referenced regarding Jackson Chapel vision)
3. **Luke 12:48** - "For unto whom much is given, much is required"
4. **2 Timothy 3:5** - "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power"
5. **Isaiah 29:13** - "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me"
6. **John 1:11** - "He came unto his own, and his own received him not"
7. **2 Corinthians 6:2** - "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation"
8. **Hebrews 3:15** - "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts"
9. **2 Peter 3:9** - "Not willing that any should perish"

10. **Matthew 5:4** (Beatitudes) - "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted"
11. **Psalms 30:5** - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning"

Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

12. **John 3:16** - Mentioned as a well-known verse
13. **Matthew 21:1-11** - Palm Sunday narrative (context of the sermon)
14. **Luke 15:11-32** - The Prodigal Son story (referenced regarding being lost despite having a father)
15. **Matthew 11:28** - Theme of Jesus calling people to himself
16. **Isaiah 53:5** - "By his stripes we are healed" (referenced regarding cancer healing)

Suggested Verses Aligned with Main Themes:

17. **Matthew 23:37** - Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (parallel passage)
18. **Hosea 4:6** - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"
19. **Proverbs 29:18** - "Where there is no vision, the people perish"
20. **James 1:22** - "Be doers of the word, not hearers only"
21. **Revelation 3:20** - Jesus standing at the door knocking
22. **Romans 10:14-15** - How shall they hear without a preacher

QUOTES:

You can be in the crowd and still miss the Christ. You can come in here and lift up your hands. You can come in here and sing in the choir. You can come in here and you can lead us in worship, and you can still be in the house, but still not connected to the Christ.

Jesus is still crying today because we are more connected, but we are also more divided. We are more advanced, but we are also more broken. We are more visible, but we also are more lost.

Privilege is not position. Privilege is access. Access to God's presence. Access to God's truth. Access to God's power.

It's one thing not to know, but it's another thing to know and then ignore what God said to do.

We are not suffering from a lack of access. We are suffering from a lack of application, a lack of commitment.

If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. And if you are determined to learn, nobody can stop you.

Delayed obedience is still disobedience.

Lost is not a location. Lost is separation.

This is not just a time for Him to cry but it's a time for us to change. Change how we see things. Change how we live. Change how we respond.

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5-Day Devotional: Recognizing God's Visitation

Day 1: When Jesus Weeps Over Us

Reading: Luke 19:41-44

Devotional: Jesus wept over Jerusalem not because of weakness, but because of love. He saw what they could not see—their spiritual blindness despite physical proximity to the Messiah. Today, examine your own heart: Are you close to Jesus in location but distant in relationship? You can attend church, know Scripture, and participate in religious activities yet miss the transformative power of Christ. Jesus still weeps over souls who have access but lack awareness, who possess privilege but miss their purpose. Don't mistake religious activity for genuine relationship. The same Savior who cried over Jerusalem longs for authentic connection with you. Will you recognize His visitation today?

Day 2: The Danger of Missed Moments

Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:7-15

Devotional: "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." God's visitations come with divine timing, and delayed obedience is still disobedience. Jerusalem had the Messiah walking their streets, teaching in their synagogues, performing miracles in their midst—yet they missed their moment. How many divine opportunities have you overlooked while waiting for a more convenient time? God opens windows of opportunity, but when they close, that exact moment doesn't return. You may have the ticket, the luggage, even be at the airport, but if you miss boarding time, the plane leaves without you. What assignment is God calling you to today? Don't let comfort, fear, or procrastination cause you to miss your moment.

Day 3: Privilege Without Perception

Reading: Luke 12:48; James 4:17

Devotional: "To whom much is given, much is required." Privilege equals access—access to God's presence, truth, and power. But access doesn't guarantee transformation. You can sit in church, hear the Word, feel God's presence, and still miss His power in your life. The tragedy isn't lacking opportunity; it's having opportunity and not recognizing it. Consider what God has placed within your reach: spiritual resources, community, calling, gifts. Are you stewarding these privileges or taking them for granted? Religious privilege without relationship leads to ruin. Having a form of godliness while denying its power leaves you spiritually bankrupt. Today, move from mere access to active application, from proximity to genuine partnership with God.

Day 4: Lost Souls Break God's Heart

Reading: 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 15:1-7

Devotional: God is "not willing that any should perish." Jesus didn't cry because He was weak; He cried because He loved them. Lost souls aren't just "out there"—they're in our schools, homes, offices, and churches. You can be in the Father's house yet far from His heart. Lost isn't a location; it's separation from God's purpose and presence. Who in your sphere of influence is spiritually disconnected? Your assignment may be someone else's answered prayer. When a soul is reached, everything can be restored. Jesus still weeps over cities, communities, and families living disconnected from their Creator. Let His compassion move you to action—to pray, reach out, and invest in restoring lost souls to their divine purpose.

Day 5: A Time to Cry, A Time to Change

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Joel 2:12-13

Devotional: There is "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." Recognizing what season you're in spiritually is critical. Perhaps you've been crying over circumstances—now it's time to change them through obedience. Or maybe you've been comfortable when God is calling you to grieve over lost opportunities and wasted privileges. Transformation requires both tears and action. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning—if you're willing to change. Step into your privilege, seize your opportunities, reach lost souls. Don't just be a spectator in God's Kingdom work. The same Jesus who wept will rejoice over what you become when you respond to His call. Today is your moment. Don't miss it.

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Small Group Guide: A Time to Cry, A Time to Change

Based on Palm Sunday Sermon - Luke 19:41-44

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive what He wants to teach through this discussion. Pray for honest conversation and transformation.

Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when you were close to something important but didn't recognize its significance until later. How did that make you feel?

Sermon Summary

Pastor Canady preached about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. While crowds celebrated, Jesus cried because they missed God's visitation. The sermon highlighted three reasons Jesus wept: **lost privileges, lost opportunities, and lost souls**. The message challenges us to recognize what God is doing in our midst and respond before the moment passes.

Key Scripture

Luke 19:41-42 - "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.'"

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Lost Privileges (15-20 minutes)

1. **What does it mean to have "access but no awareness"?** Can you think of spiritual privileges in your life that you may be taking for granted?

2. **Pastor Canady said, "You can be in the crowd and still miss the Christ."** How is this possible? What are the warning signs that someone might be religiously active but spiritually disconnected?
3. **Read Luke 12:48** - "To whom much is given, much is required." What has God given you access to (church, Bible, worship, community)? How are you stewarding these privileges?
4. **The sermon mentioned having "a form of godliness but denying the power" (2 Timothy 3:5).** What's the difference between religion and relationship with God?

Part 2: Lost Opportunities (15-20 minutes)

5. **Jesus said they "did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."** How do we discern when God is moving in a special way? What are the signs of divine opportunity?
6. **"Delayed obedience is still disobedience."** Share about a time when you hesitated to obey God. What was the result? Or share about a time you obeyed immediately—what happened?
7. **The Community of Hope vision and LIFE Male STEAM Academy were divine opportunities that required response.** What opportunities is God presenting to you personally? To our church? To our community?
8. **Pastor Canady said, "You don't need more time. You just need better timing."** What does this mean practically? How do we know when it's time to act?

Part 3: Lost Souls (15-20 minutes)

9. **Jesus wept over lost souls because He loved them.** Who in your life needs to encounter Christ? How does God's heart for the lost affect how you view that person?

10. **The sermon stated, "Lost is not a location. Lost is separation."** How does this definition change how we think about evangelism and ministry?
 11. **"You can be in the Father's house and still be far from his heart."** How do we guard against spiritual complacency when we're regularly in church?
 12. **What role should the church play in reaching lost souls in our community?** How can we participate more actively?
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Key Takeaways

✓ **Privilege requires response** - Access to God's presence, truth, and power demands that we walk in our assignment

✓ **Opportunity has an expiration date** - When God opens a window, we must act; missed moments have real consequences

✓ **Lost souls break God's heart** - Jesus still weeps over cities, communities, and individuals who are close but disconnected

✓ **Tears aren't weakness** - When we stop crying over what breaks God's heart, we've stopped caring

✓ **It's time to change** - Recognition must lead to transformation; awareness must produce action

Practical Applications

This Week, I Will:

Personal Spiritual Growth:

- Examine my relationship with God—is it religious routine or genuine relationship?
- Identify one spiritual privilege I've been taking for granted and intentionally engage with it
- Pray daily: "God, help me recognize when You're moving and give me courage to respond"

Responding to Opportunity:

- Write down one thing I believe God has been calling me to do and set a deadline to begin
- Stop overthinking and take one step of obedience this week
- Ask God to show me opportunities to serve in the Community of Hope vision

Reaching Lost Souls:

- Pray by name for three people who need Christ
- Invite someone to church or a church event
- Share my testimony with at least one person this week
- Volunteer with a ministry that reaches the community (youth, education, outreach)

Community Engagement:

- Research how I can support the LIFE Male STEAM Academy or similar ministries
- Attend the next church community event or service opportunity
- Have a conversation with someone about what God is doing at Rodman Street

Reflection Questions for Journaling

1. If Jesus looked at my life today, would He be rejoicing or weeping? Why?
 2. What window of opportunity might I be missing right now?
 3. What would change in my life if I truly believed "to whom much is given, much is required"?
 4. Who has God placed in my life that I'm called to reach, restore, or redirect?
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Closing Exercise (10 minutes)

Group Commitment: Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence:

"This week, I will respond to God's visitation by _____."

Have someone write down each commitment. Plan to check in next week on how everyone did.

Closing Prayer

Pray specifically for:

- Eyes to see what Jesus sees
- Hearts that break for what breaks God's heart
- Courage to step into privilege and opportunity
- Boldness to reach lost souls

- The Community of Hope vision and all ministries reaching the community
 - The LIFE Male STEAM Academy and the young people being impacted
 - Strength to change, not just cry
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Additional Resources

Scriptures for Further Study:

- Isaiah 29:13 (honoring God with lips vs. heart)
- John 1:11 (He came to His own)
- 2 Corinthians 6:2 (now is the accepted time)
- Hebrews 3:15 (today, if you hear His voice)
- 2 Peter 3:9 (God not willing that any perish)

Questions to Carry Through the Week:

- What is God saying to me right now?
 - What opportunity is in front of me today?
 - Who needs to see Jesus through me?
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Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for honest conversation about spiritual struggles
- Be prepared to share your own story of missing or seizing God's opportunities
- Have tissues available—this topic may bring tears

- Consider showing pictures or videos of the Community of Hope or LIFE Male STEAM Academy if available
- Follow up individually with anyone who seems particularly moved or convicted
- Celebrate stories of obedience and transformation from previous weeks

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Canady describes Jesus weeping over Jerusalem because the people were close to Him physically but disconnected spiritually. In what ways might we be in proximity to God's presence but still missing His purpose in our lives?
2. The sermon emphasizes that 'privilege is not position, privilege is access.' How does having access to God's Word, worship, and community create responsibility rather than entitlement in our spiritual lives?
3. Jesus wept because Jerusalem 'did not recognize the time of God's visitation.' What are the signs that God is visiting us today, and how can we become more spiritually aware to recognize these moments?
4. The pastor states that 'delayed obedience is still disobedience.' What opportunities or callings from God might we be postponing, and what fears or comforts are keeping us from immediate obedience?
5. How does the concept of having 'a form of godliness but denying the power' from 2 Timothy 3:5 manifest in modern church culture, and what does authentic spiritual power look like in practice?

6. The sermon challenges us that 'you can be in the crowd and still miss the Christ.' What is the difference between religious activity and genuine relationship with Jesus, and how can we assess which one characterizes our faith?
7. Pastor Canady connects Jesus's tears to His love for people, stating 'when you love people, you will do something to help people.' How should our love for our community translate into tangible action rather than just compassion or concern?
8. The message describes young people as having 'potential but not always access' to the right education, environment, and expectations. What responsibility do we have as believers to create pathways of access for those who are trapped by their circumstances?
9. How does the warning that 'missed moments have real consequences' challenge our tendency to procrastinate on spiritual decisions, and what divine opportunities might we be in danger of missing right now?
10. The pastor emphasizes that 'lost is not a location, lost is separation' from God. How does this understanding change the way we view and approach people who are spiritually disconnected, even those who may be physically present in church?