



FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

April 2, 2023

The Lord Wept

The following is a meditation by Augustine Maria Ilg on Our Lord weeping over Jerusalem before going to His Passion.

And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you 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." - Luke 19:41-44



In the tranquil eventide, just when the sun is sinking in the west, behold Jesus ascending the Mount of Olives. Before Him lies Jerusalem, the most beautiful, the most magnificent of all the cities of Israel. How quiet and peaceful it appears, for the noise of the busy streets, the din and turmoil of the town does not reach yonder eminence; all is still and tranquil and beautiful; the marble columns of Herod's palace gleam and glitter in the rays of the setting sun, while the temple, proudly standing on Sion's heights, flashes like a bright jewel set in gold. A fair and fascinating sight indeed, that city of David; Jesus gazes on it, gazes on its splendor, and weeps.

Consider how, while our Lord looked upon the city standing there in unimpaired stateliness and beauty, the thought of the graces vouchsafed to it by God, the knowledge of the awful judgments about to overtake it, were borne in so forcibly upon the loving, the compassionate heart of Jesus, that He wept over the approaching destruction of the holy city, and wept with an incomparably greater sorrow than that experienced by Jeremias on the occasion of its first destruction, and expressed by him in his Lamentations.

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, over that singularly beautiful city. Grasp this thought, my soul. You also are a fair city like Jerusalem. The temple of the Holy Ghost which you became by divine consecration is more beautiful than the marble temple on Mount Sion. Your soul, arrayed in the garment of sanctifying grace, shines with greater glory than did the city of David in the red glow of the setting sun, and the dignity of a citizen of the heavenly Jerusalem, which is in store for you, far exceeds the majesty of the earthly Jerusalem. Our Lord sees this beauty, this splendor, this glory appertaining to you, and He weeps.



Holy Martyrs | St. Jude | St. Gregory the Great | Sacred Heart

– Joe Moreshead