

Weekly Study Guide

3/24/24 - Precious Praise

Read the following Bible verses:

Jesus answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these stones should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out,” and as he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it. —Luke 19:40-41

“The stones of the walls will cry out, the timbers will echo it.” —Habakkuk 2:11

The blind and the lame came to Jesus at the temple, and he healed them. When the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” —Matthew 21:14-16

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

—*Revelation 12:10-11*

Questions:

1. What does “stones cry out” mean? How does it relate to the saying “if these walls could talk?” What kinds of things did the stones witness?
2. Why was Jesus sorrowful when he looked over Jerusalem? Why did Jesus weep over the city? What kinds of things do you think Jesus would weep over today? What should we weep over?
3. Why were the chief priests and teachers of the law angry? What kinds of wonderful things did Jesus do? Why should we be careful about silencing praise? Why does it matter how we treat children and the innocent?
4. Where does salvation, power, and authority come from? In what ways does the enemy accuse us? What does it mean that the accuser has been cast down? How do we overcome the enemy?

“Stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life -- the life God is sending one day by day.”—C.S. Lewis

For later: Prayerfully ask yourself the following questions...

1. Are there any gaps in your testimony? Any walls you have built? Any areas where the enemy has silenced you?
2. Has sin, guilt, shame, regret, or failure interrupted your life in any way?
3. Is there anything you need to be honest with God about? Your past, your sins, your failures? Is there anything you need to be forgiven for? Any area where you need to receive healing?

Bible Verses: [Jeremiah 15:19](#); [Matthew 21:1-6](#); [John 12:12-13](#); [Luke 19:37-40](#); [Luke 19:41-44](#); [Matthew 21:12-16](#); [Habakkuk 2:11](#); [Jeremiah 19:5-6](#); [2 Kings 23:10](#); [Revelation 12:10-11](#); [John 3:16-21](#); [John 1:8-9](#)

Helps:

- Stones cry out - Not praise but judgment. Stones stand as eyewitnesses to injustice, evil and sin. Read woes in Habakkuk chapter 2.
- Jesus wept - Means to weep profusely. Israel's history was marred by idolatrous worship and horrific evil. They looked to false gods for peace.
- Wonderful things - Jesus welcomed children, the sick, and the poor at the temple. He healed the blind and lame, not to mention overturning the money changers tables who took advantage of the poor, along with all the miracles Jesus did previously (healing sick, raising the dead).
- Silencing praise - Praise is perfected in the mouth of babes. Innocent praise is precious to God. The enemy tries to silence praise and keep us from testifying of God's goodness.
- Accuser - The enemy never stops accusing people. He uses guilt, failure, sin, shame, and regret. The enemy has been cast down and though he was defeated by Christ's death and resurrection, we still must overcome the accuser by Christ's blood and the word of our testimony. Don't be silent!

Series Questions: Are you living your life consistent with what you truly believe? Do your words, actions, worship, and beliefs all line up? Are you allowing God to use your life to point others to Jesus? Is there anything in your life that might hurt your testimony with others? Are you willing to give it to God?