



The Gospel of Saint Luke

19: 41-44. And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it saying, *Would that thou knewest, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which are for thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall raise up a rampart about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall make thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

He weeps over the city because He is the Lover of mankind and did not want to destroy those in the city because of their outrage against Him. By weeping He shows His compassionate mercy. That He took pity upon them, not only before the Cross but after the Cross as well, and thirsted for their repentance, is clear from the fact that so many years went by, some thirty-five years, until they were delivered into the hands of the Romans. For it is certain that He delayed their punishment for no other reason than that He desired their repentance. He weeps, therefore, over the senselessness of Jerusalem and says, *Would that thou knewest, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which are for thy peace*, that is, "If only you would realize even now the things which are to thy advantage and which would bring you rest, namely, faith in Me and the abandonment of your plot against Me. *But now they are hid from thine eyes* because you rejected Me, and unbearable evils shall be brought upon you, and you shall suffer this and this and this, *because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation*, that is, the time of My coming when I came to care for you and to save you. You ought to have recognized the things which were for your peace and you ought to have believed in Me. Then you would have had peace from the Romans, and deliverance from every affliction." For all those in Jerusalem who believed in Christ were saved from the taking of the city; if all had believed, no one would have been destroyed.