***Luke 19:41-44 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”***

We’re making our way with Jesus to Jerusalem this morning. We left Jericho, now almost 17 miles behind. Leaving Jericho, Jesus went ahead of us. Mark 10:32 says in part - *Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid.* Jesus, knowing betrayal lay ahead, rejection lay ahead, physical torture lay ahead, death lay ahead, led the way. He is out front, pressing toward Jerusalem, face set as flint as Isaiah 50:7 tells us, His face set steadfastly toward Jerusalem, as Luke 9:51 tells us. And the disciples were amazed, astonished, afraid. Even knowing what He knows, Jesus leads the way, pressing from the lowest place a man can live upward to what will be the eternal city. And such is our journey with Jesus – out of the pit upward to Promise. He is resolute to lead us… but we must follow.

Verse 41 *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.* Jesus would have been due east of the Temple, at the Descent of the Mount of Olives. History tells us that the eastern wall is lower than the other three, so the High Priest could see the Temple from this vantage point. Even today, the Descent of the Mount of Olives is known as the most holy road in Jerusalem. From this vantage point, Jesus stops. He weeps. The Greek has the idea that He sobbed, wept bitterly. This is the same word used to describe Peter weeping over denying Jesus. Jesus weeps over the city that threatened to stone Him, sought to trap Him, wanted to kill Him, and will cry out for His crucifixion in just a few days. Imagine the sadness of being rejected by those you’ll soon die for… Imagine Perfect Love looking down on that city and weeping.

Verse 42 – Jesus now speaks *saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.* If the Jews had seen what was very plain in the scriptures and accepted Christ, what peace they would have experienced. Instead, they rejected the Prince of Peace in favor of worldly position. The Jews believed that God fell silent in Malachi 4, and know that the Messiah was at hand when God sent His next prophet. They believed John the Baptist to be a prophet, yet they rejected the One he prophesied of. Evil, greed, lust, pride, blinded their eyes. And so it is today. We are blinded by lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, robbing us of peace and relationship.

Verses 43-44 *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another.* The last two weeks, we saw Jesus tell things that would happen to Him and, one by one, we used scripture to check them off. Now, He speaks of the destruction that will come upon Jerusalem. Enemies will build an embankment and cast a trench, surround you, level you to the ground, leaving not one stone upon another. He’s saying that Jerusalem and the Temple will be utterly destroyed! Hmmm – usually only an embankment is used against a walled city. Strange Jesus would talk about a trench. Let’s ask Josephus, an ancient Jewish, non-Christian, historian. He writes: in 70 AD, the war leader of Rome, Titus, attacked the city to put down a rebellion. The Jews refused to surrender. Titus took the very unusual step of building a siege mound and digging a five mile trench around the city to trap all inside. Finally, famine and thirst brought Jerusalem to it’s knees. Titus broke through and destroyed the city, killing 1 million Jews. 100,000 children were enslaved. He burned the Temple, leveled the city, and tore down the walls, leaving only the western wall and three towers to attest to the power of Rome. This siege started around Passover. Don’t let this be lost on us. Jesus was crucified during Passover. Now, God’s wrath falls in that same time. True one, true all. Jesus is trustworthy! Trustworthy then, trustworthy now.

Finishing verse 44 - *because you did not know the time of your visitation.* The Jews missed the visitation of the Savior, because their eyes were blinded by the world. That’s still happening today! People are blinded to the Truth, ignoring conviction to worship the world. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12says this of the end of times - *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish****, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.****And for this reason God will send them strong delusion,****that they should believe the lie****, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* If we refuse the Truth, reject our Peace, despise when Christ comes to visit, fail to answer His knock, delusion leads us to believe the lies, and ultimately to utter destruction.

This week, let’s prepare our hearts for the Resurrection! He said He’s coming again. True one, true all. If you have never received Him Who Is the Truth of God, come now. Reject the delusion and be saved. Christ has His face set upon you. Will you receive Him today?