



I. MORE THAN A TRIP

A. Just over there...

- Israel is a tiny country, one tenth the size of MN
- It could fit inside the state of MN
- Remembrance of October 7
- We visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem.

II. IT'S JUST OVER THERE

A. So much closer that I thought

- In my imagination, it had always seemed so much farther away.

B. Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Christ

- It was from the mount of Olives, where Jesus sent 2 disciples to find a colt.

Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

- Behold the King!

Luke 19:38 (NKJV) Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

- They missed the point

Luke 19:10 (NKJV) For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

C. He's gone, but He's coming back

Acts 1:8-11 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

Acts 1:12 NLT) Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.

D. Open the gate

Ezekiel 43:4 (NKJV) And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east.



Just Over There

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Israel



- Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, sealed the gate in the mid 1500's

Zechariah 14:3-4 (NKJV) Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

- The geography itself is transformed. In the literal, future interpretation of this prophecy, the Lord returns and physically stands on the Mount of Olives.

III. WHEN?

A. The promise of His return should both excite us and move us

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

B. Jesus wept over Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-42 (NKJV) 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.

C. You were not willing

- Jesus wasn't weeping over a city filled only with people who loved Him. He was weeping over a city where He would be rejected, condemned, executed and He loved them anyway

Matthew 23:37 (NKJV) O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

- Do we have the heart of Jesus for people who don't have the heart of Jesus?

D. Just over there

- Can we become so excited about Jesus coming back that we forget about the people He came to save?
 - Lord, give me Your heart for people.
 - Help me see what You see.
 - Help me care about what You care about.
 - Help me recognize the people You've placed in my world.
- And give me the courage to reach them.

Acts 8:5,8 He preached Christ and there was great joy in the city