

Luke 19:28-44

Triumphal Entry

04/09/17

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down 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.”

(Pastor prays)

I’ve been searching this week for a way to get at this story. I even talked with a friend to hear his thoughts because I really do desire to see men and women sober up and take Jesus seriously, not so much for what He can *do* but for who He is.

Next Sunday is the Resurrection. Friday, we will deal with the Crucifixion, but this passage is the kick-off. Today we join the Lord Jesus on the final journey to Jerusalem. Prior to Chapter 19, the story of Jesus has been beautifully written and especially inspiring.

But here in our text, the intensity is building as Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In fact, you hear it in Luke saying He “went up” to Jerusalem. In verse 18, that’s where the sacrifice would be made. That’s where God and man would be reconciled. Before this chapter, Jesus seemed to shun the spotlight, even telling those He healed to not tell anyone. But now, His time has come, God’s appointed hour--written about in the prophecies and longed for by the people--was here.

Jesus is fully identifying himself as the Savior. And what was a day of triumph for everyone else is marked by agony for Him. Verse 41 says when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it. Why would God the Son weep? There’s a phrase that haunts. It’s at the very end of verse 44. He tells this to the city but I think He means it for us - *“You did not know the time of your visitation.”*

God himself was close and they missed Him. That’s what Jesus says to the Holy City in verse 42: *Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.* And because of that, you can feel the tension. You can sense the missed opportunity and I don’t want you to miss Him. I want you to know and love Him, to throw the passing pleasures away and to know the saturating joy that is in Christ. Here is what I believe...

Jesus is Worth Your Whole Life

I’d like to do things a little differently than usual. Let’s read back through the passage and point out some things and then I’ll give you a few words to sort of hang the sermon on. Let’s read the text again and really study the words. (*Pastor reads – slowly explaining*)

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along,

they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” 41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down 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.”

Let's look at the words now. The first word is:

Celebration

Ours is a faith of celebration. We celebrate marriages of a couple coming together under the lordship of Christ. At funerals, even through tears, we celebrate a life lived for Christ. We celebrate baptisms. And this passage has celebration written all over it.

They set Jesus on the donkey and in verse 36, they throw their cloaks on the road in front of the King. And in verse 37, *As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen.*

What had they seen? Sit down and read Luke sometime – it will take you about 45 minutes. They had seen leprosy healed, the deaf made to hear, the blind made to see, the lame made to walk. They had seen a demon-possessed man calmed and in his right mind. They had seen Jesus feed the 5,000 with a few loaves and fish. They had heard of Jesus healing a woman who had a bleeding condition (that had lasted) for 12 years healed with just a touch of His cloak. They had seen Him walk on water and heard Him tell a storm, “Peace, be still.”

But not just what they had seen – what about the mighty works *you* have seen? Don't you have good reason to celebrate? You were once dead in sin but you've been made

alive in Christ. If you are in Christ, you've been purchased, forgiven, cleansed. You are loved, valued and secure. I want you to celebrate and praise Him.

Let me show you why. Look what happens in verse 38 and 39. *38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."*

The whole design of the whole universe is that Christ be praised. Isn't that what Paul was saying in Romans 11:36? *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.* You were created to find your greatest joy and celebration in Christ. Even the first question of the catechism is, "What is the chief purpose of man?" The chief purpose of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Celebrate. Do you enjoy God? Do you find your greatest, most profound joy in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus? If we did, we would have a lot fewer issues. Your major problem isn't a man or money or a job or lust. Your major problem is that your life is not a celebration of Christ. While you are thinking that over, let me give you another word for this passage:

Trust

This passage reminds us that He is in control. Our word for that is "sovereign." This passage is filled with reminders. In this passage, you see Jesus in control. In verses 29 – 35, you see the story of the colt. It was probably owned by a couple of families. It would be expensive. Jesus told them they would find the colt. They were told to go untie it. In verse 31, the explanation when someone asks is "The Lord had need of it."

Look, you try to tell me that as you take my car from the parking lot and there's going to be a wrestling match. But the owners of the colt – "Well, ok." Jesus was in control. Also, verse 30 says they were getting a colt that no one had ever sat on. It was unbroken but Jesus is sovereign over animals. He rides in like a king – a different kind of king. In doing so, He fulfilled what had been written about Him 500 years before by the prophet named Zechariah. Listen to what he said in Zechariah 9:9,

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

*Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Five hundred years before! If He can control time and space, events and people, why won't you trust Him? Trust Him with your addiction, with your sin that you can't shake. Look, this has implications all over our lives. We worry because we don't trust. We don't give because we don't trust that we will have enough. Part of what I want to do today is to convince you to trust Him. Come to the cross and trust Him. I want you to unburden your heart and release your bitterness and trust Him. That brings me to my final word:

Respond

It's in the last section that of verses 41-44: *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down 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."*

While this would ultimately result in triumph, in the text, the multitudes are rejoicing while the King weeps. This is how the Savior responds to those who miss their day of visitation. There is great mercy here. Even you, if you would only see how you can have peace on your day of visitation, when God is shown to be holy and you become aware of the sin that separates you from the Lord, when you look to Christ to be saved. The way Paul describes it in Acts 20 is "Repentance toward God and faith in Jesus."

Turn away from your sin and turn to Christ. This passage is *glorious* in that Christ is going to Jerusalem to redeem sinners. This passage is *terrifying* because there were people there who missed it.

In the words of the author of Hebrews “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart.” It is a day of visitation. Today. The Gospel has been preached and it calls for celebration, trust and a response.

(Pastor prays)