

JESUS IS OUR KING

TEXT: Luke 19:28-44

Key Word: King

Key Thought: Jesus Uniquely Proclaimed His Kingship During Palm Sunday

The date of this event was the year of our Lord 30 AD.; the place was Jerusalem (the city of peace); the day was Palm Sunday - beginning what we call the "**Passion Week.**"

Jesus had just walked several miles from the S.E. and was approaching the famous Mount of Olives on the east side of the city. It was one of His favourite "**prayer closets.**" The Kidron Valley was the only thing that separated it from what became renamed Herod's majestic temple.

Just prior to this He had been at Jericho (18 miles N.E. of Jerusalem) where Bartimaeus had called out to Jesus to receive his sight. He immediately began to see and followed Jesus. The excitement therefore was building. Three years of ministry and miracles had already taken place. It appeared that the Day of Rejoicing was at hand as Isaiah had prophesied.

"In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

19. Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."

Isaiah 29:18,19

"strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

4. say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you'

5. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of deaf unstopped.

6. Then the lame will leap like deer, and the mute tongue will shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."

Isaiah 35:4-6

There Are Three Things That Are Essential for Us to See this Palm Sunday

I. THE APPROACH TO JERUSALEM (Luke 19:28-29)

II. THE ANIMAL JESUS RODE UPON (Luke 19:30-35)

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE (Luke 19:36-39)

I. THE APPROACH TO JERUSALEM (Luke 19:28-29)

The disciples had travelled over the 16 miles through the heat of the day. Many pilgrims were travelling the road on their yearly trip to Jerusalem for the week of the Passover. There was plenty of excitement in the air.

As they approached the tiny hamlet of Bethphage they could see the city of Jerusalem. The disciples knew that a very significant event was about to take place. Yet they had no idea how it would come to pass. Jesus was with them so anything could happen--naturally or supernaturally.

The name "*Bethphage*" meant "*house of unripe figs.*" The fig tree has often been symbolic of Israel. It may have carried a message that Israel would be unprepared for the upcoming events. They were ready for their Messiah to come to this very place but not as He had planned in the hours to come. They pictured something totally different.

The prophet Zechariah foretold,

*"On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half of moving south . . .
5. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him."*

Zechariah 14:4,5

The problem was that Jesus was not coming from the air but rather from a dusty road. And how could the crowd be considered as "*the holy ones?*" How could these common followers of Jesus overcome the well-trained, well-equipped armies of Rome and set up a new kingdom? It didn't seem like the prophecy of Zechariah would be fulfilled.

"The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name."

Zechariah 14:9

There were no trumpets . . . no angels . . . no earthquakes!

II. THE ANIMAL JESUS RODE UPON (Luke 19:30-35)

The animal that He chose to ride was not a white horse. Scriptures tell us that Jesus knew that an animal would be waiting for him. Both the writings of Matthew and John quote the prophet Zechariah,

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion. Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! see, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Zechariah 9:9

It was normal for a rabbi to ride while his disciples walked. But this animal was different. The Greek word is "*polos*" which means a "*young animal*." In this case it was a colt of a donkey that had never been ridden.

Animals used for sacred use could never be ridden (a yoke never placed on them - Numbers 19:2; I Samuel 6:7) which was the same for animals that would bear royalty. I believe this animal's sole reason for being alive at this time was to carry the Messiah?

Jesus told His disciples that if anyone asked why they were untying the animal that they should say

"The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly."

Mark 11:3

He was saying "*its (real) owner*" needed it for a short time. His higher authority could override that of the owner at Bethphage.

Wouldn't it have been easier to draw a crowd if He had chose to ride upon a white horse? Everything Jesus did was significant. It all pointed to Him as the Messiah. He was the One who was prophesied to come from the tribe of Judah. The prophecy to Judah said,

"He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branches."

Genesis 49:11

II. THE ANIMAL JESUS RODE UPON (Luke 19:30-35) (Contd.)

He chose a donkey's offspring because it further declared that He was the Messiah. They threw their garments over the animal to act as a saddle and to help the animal that was not used of a rider. Could it be that our LORD was showing the crowd that He could quiet even the stubbornness of a donkey - one that had never let a man try to tame it? Perhaps the donkey symbolized Israel in its stubborn state!

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE (Luke 19:36-39)

As Jesus approached the northern gate of Jerusalem (where the lambs were brought in for the sacrifice) the people broke out in spontaneous expression of joy. Some spread leafy branches on the street before Him. Others (according to John 12:13), spread Palm branches that had to have been brought from Jericho that was 18 miles away. This emphasizes the truth that the people had anticipated a time of celebration. They came prepared to worship their Messiah. We also need to come prepared to worship!

*** There is a story in II Kings 9, during the reign of Ahab & Jezebel. That wicked king had come to the end of his reign in God's sight. The prophet Elisha called to one of the men from the company of prophets and told him to go quickly with a flask of oil to Ramoth Gilead. There he was to anoint Jehu as the next king.

When he arrived he took Jehu into the privacy of the house and anointed him as king. When they came back out and told Jehu's fellow officers, they began to scorn the word from God. But after Jehu acknowledged that it had truly taken place the officers immediately changed from scorn to worship.

The Bible says *"they hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps: Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, 'Jehu is king.'* (II Kings 9:13).

The event seemed to catch them off guard, although they were hoping for the overthrow of the fierce King Ahab. ***

As the crowd gathered around Jesus they were not caught unawares. They gave a royal salute with their garments,

*"Many people spread their cloaks on the road,
while others spread branches they had cut in the
fields."*

Mark 11:8

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE (Luke 19:36-39) (Contd.)

I believe that the people had been singing the Hallel Psalms (113-118) on their approach to the gates of the city. The gospel writings include some of Psalm 118:25 & 26, but let's read several of the other verses.

"Open for me the gate of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

20. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

21. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation

22. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

23. The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24. This the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success,

26. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

27. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession, up to the house of the altar.

28. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. his love endures forever."

Psalms 118:19-29

The people were sure that Jesus had finally come to set up His kingdom. It didn't seem to matter where He came from. So what if He chose to ride a young colt of a donkey. The important thing was that the Messiah had come.

"Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD, Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David, Hosanna in the highest."

Mark 11:9,10

The word "*hosanna*" means "*save us.*" It was both praise and prayer mixed together in one word.

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE (Luke 19:36-39) (Contd.)

The Pharisees tried to stop the crowd from worshipping Jesus (Luke 19:39) but Jesus said,

"I tell you," he replied, "If you keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Luke 19:40

Today is a day of rejoicing for God's people because our LORD did establish His kingdom almost 2000 years ago. It may not have been according to their selective and limited understanding but His everlasting Kingdom was established. Millions are part of God's Kingdom today. Let's acknowledge Jesus as our King today!

C:\WPWin (2021)\Sermons.22\Special Days - Palm Sunday\Luke 19_28.44.wpd

Date: Apr 10/22 (Palm Sunday) Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: All Hail King Jesus - D

JESUS IS OUR KING

Text: Luke 19:28-44

Key Word: King

Key Thought: Jesus Uniquely Proclaimed His Kingship During Palm Sunday

INTRODUCTION - *Isaiah 29:18,19; Isaiah 35:4-6*

There Are Three Things That Are Essential for Us to See this Palm Sunday

I. THE APPROACH TO JERUSALEM (Luke 19:28-29) - *Zechariah 14:4,5,9*

II. THE ANIMAL JESUS RODE UPON (Luke 19:30-35) - *Zechariah 9:9; Numbers 19:2; I Samuel 6:7; Mark 11:3; Genesis 49:11*

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE (Luke 19:36-39) - *John 12:13; II Kings 9:13; Mark 11:8; the Hallel Psalms (113-118); Psalms 118:19-29; Mark 11:9,10; Luke 19:40*