

Don't Let the Stones Cry Out

March 25, 2018

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you for welcoming us back.
- The Passover is a Jewish holiday celebrating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. There may have been as many as 2 million people gathered in Jerusalem for Passover. This year was going to be unlike any previous Passover celebration. The Jews were ready to welcome their long awaited Messiah and anoint Him as King. God, however, had much bigger plans. He was going to save the world.
- We're going to go verse by verse through Luke's account of the Triumphal Entry.
- Read Luke 19:28-40

VERSE 28: WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE WENT ON AHEAD, GOING UP TO JERUSALEM.

- Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing exactly what was awaiting Him. He knew this was the road to the cross, but He also know this was the road to our salvation.
- ...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:2
- Jesus is not only a God for us to worship; He was a man that we can admire.
- Have you ever had to willingly walk towards something that you knew was going to be extremely hard, but you did it anyway? The classic example is child birth.

VERSES 29-31: AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN HE DREW NEAR TO BETHPHAGE AND BETHANY, AT THE MOUNTAIN CALLED OLIVET, THAT HE SENT TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING, "GO INTO THE VILLAGE OPPOSITE YOU, WHERE AS YOU ENTER YOU WILL FIND A COLT TIED, ON WHICH NO ONE HAS EVER SAT. LOOSE IT AND BRING IT HERE. AND IF ANYONE ASKS YOU, 'WHY ARE YOU LOOSING IT?' THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO HIM, 'BECAUSE THE LORD HAS NEED OF IT.'"

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- The Lord sent two of His disciples. It's comforting to know that God never sends us alone. We have each other. And at the very least, His Holy Spirit is always with us when He sends us.
- Isn't it kind of strange that the verse says the "...the Lord has need?" The Lord needs disciples? The Lord needs a donkey? By becoming a man, Jesus put Himself in a position of need and vulnerability. When He was a baby, He needed His diapers changed. He needed to be fed by His parents. As an adult, He needed help from His disciples.
- As God in Heaven, He doesn't need us, but He chooses to team up with us to show God's love on this earth.

VERSES 32-34: SO THOSE WHO WERE SENT WENT THEIR WAY AND FOUND IT JUST AS HE HAD SAID TO THEM. BUT AS THEY WERE LOSING THE COLT, THE OWNERS OF IT SAID TO THEM, "WHY ARE YOU LOSING THE COLT?" AND THEY SAID, "THE LORD HAS NEED OF HIM."

- Everything happened just as Jesus had said it would.
- The life of Jesus happened just as the Old Testament said it would. His birth, His miracles, His death and resurrection were all spoken of in the Old Testament.
- Things will continue to happen just as the Bible says it will. The New Testament predicts of Jesus' return. Keep that in mind as we move forward in today's message.
- The Old Testament even specifically told of how He would enter Jerusalem...**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. – Zechariah 9:9**
- Why a donkey? To fulfill prophecy, but also to send a message. Sometimes when a king rode on a horse, it was an emblem of war. Kings of that time would often ride on a donkey in times of peace. In fact, Solomon rode on a donkey when he was inaugurated as king. Jesus was sending the message that God had arrived to make peace with His people.
- Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem as a puffed up, cocky, arrogant, prideful king. He rode in as a meek, humble, confident king.

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- Confidence is a good quality if you know that all your strength comes from God. Jesus had a Godfidence.

VERSES 35-36: THEN THEY BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS. AND THEY THREW THEIR OWN CLOTHES ON THE COLT, AND THEY SET JESUS ON HIM. AND AS HE WENT, MANY SPREAD THEIR CLOTHES ON THE ROAD.

- If we just had Luke's Gospel, today would be called "Throw Your Clothes Sunday". Luke does not mention the palm branches. Fortunately, John does.
- The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him... - John 12:12-13
- People often honored kings in this way. The palm was an emblem of joy and victory.
- It was very clear that the people were accepting and proclaiming Jesus as King.

VERSES 37-38: THEN, AS HE WAS NOW DRAWING NEAR THE DESCENT OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, THE WHOLE MULTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLES BEGAN TO REJOICE AND PRAISE GOD WITH A LOUD VOICE FOR ALL THE MIGHTY WORKS THEY HAD SEEN, SAYING: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!" PEACE IN HEAVEN AND GLORY IN THE HIGHEST!"

- The whole multitude praises God as Jesus enters.
- This reminds me of Wayne's World... Wayne and Garth get backstage passes to an Alice Cooper concert. They walk in right past everybody else flashing their passes. When they first meet Alice, they try to play it cool. Wayne and Garth briefly talk to him and then try to leave, but Alice says "Stick around, hang out with us." Wayne and Garth then do the now famous "We're not worthy!" They stopped trying to play it cool.
- On this Palm Sunday, the multitude finally stopped trying to play it cool and they praised Jesus.
- I remember first coming to Calvary Chapel 14 years ago. Back then we met at the elementary school down the road. I remember seeing people lifting their arms during worship and not really

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- understanding what was going on. Without naming names, there is someone in this room I still have an image of in my head lifting their arms. I thought it was strange. But God started working on my heart and eventually I understood what was going on. Then there came the day when the Spirit was prompting me to lift my arms in worship. I eventually stopped playing it cool and I did it. It was so freeing to openly worship Jesus.
- What kind of arm raiser are you? Sometimes it's a good to raise your arms when you're not feeling the Spirit move. Worshipping is not always about how you feel, it's a conscious decision to praise God no matter how you feel.
 - Going back to the Wayne and Garth backstage passes...they could not get backstage without those passes. Jesus' death and resurrection gave us all backstage passes into the Kingdom of God. We are all V.I.P.'s in God's sight. The world may not view you and me as important, but the Creator of the world does. God proved this when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. His Holy Spirit is in our lives is evidence of how much He cares about us.
 - **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace... – Hebrews 4:16**
 - In verse 38, the people shouted, **"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"** To come in the name of the Lord means to come in the authority of the Lord. Do you know that when we are walking in God's will, we have this same authority? Godfidence!

VERSE 39: AND SOME OF THE PHARISEES CALLED TO HIM FROM THE CROWD, "TEACHER, REBUKE YOUR DISCIPLES."

- "The crowd's praise made Jesus' enemies uncomfortable...it made them know they were being defeated. Nothing tells Satan and his followers that they have lost like the praises of God ringing in their ears. Satan loses because when God's people are really worshipping, their hearts and minds are on Him – and not on sin, self, or Satan's distractions." – David Guzik
- It is very hard, almost impossible to worship Jesus and sin simultaneously.

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VERSE 40: BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "I TELL YOU THAT IF THESE SHOULD KEEP SILENT, THE STONES WOULD IMMEDIATELY CRY OUT."

- There were other times when people tried to praise Jesus, but He avoided the praise and sometimes even told them not to speak of the miracles He had done. Here the Pharisees are telling Jesus to "rebuke Your disciples". This is the first time Jesus is accepting and encouraging public worship. This was a big moment.
- Our lives should be centered on worshipping and praising Jesus.
- Don't let the stones cry out.

THE SECOND COMING

- Earlier I had mentioned how the Bible spoke of Jesus' return. Let's take a look...
- Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. – Revelation 19:11-16
- Jesus first came riding on a donkey; He'll come again riding on a warhorse.
- He first came as a humble king and a suffering servant; He's coming back as a conquering king.
- The first time Jesus came to this world, He came to suffer and die for our sins. When He comes back, He's coming to fight. He's coming to destroy evil.

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- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. – Revelation 3:20
- Jesus first came to politely knock on the door of our hearts. He offered a relationship with Him, with God. When He comes back, He is not going to knock; He is going to kick the door down of those who have rejected His offer of grace and salvation.

THEREFORE GOD ALSO HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER. – PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

- Bowing down is a posture of respect, worship, and praise...or it can also be a posture of fear and shame.
- The Bible says that every knee will bow. Every person, angel, and demon will someday have to bow and confess Jesus as Lord. We have the choice to bow out of worship now or out of fear and shame later. Are you willing to bow to the King and worship Him right now?
- While studying, one of the commentaries I use was written by Albert Barnes in 1847. He noted that in his day some churches took this verse to the literal extreme. They would bow or take a knee every time the name of Jesus was spoken during a sermon. Can you imagine how many times we would be up and down in this church if we followed that philosophy? However, I think the modern church would benefit from bowing to the King more often than we do.
- If we can't bow before the King here at church, how are we going to be able to stand up for Him in the world?
- Is He not worthy of our praise, worship, and adoration? Don't let the stones cry out!