

Sunday Lesson – March 28, 2021

GOSPEL: Luke 19: 29-44

Triumphal Entry

Background

“Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, one week before His resurrection (Matthew 21:1–11). As Jesus entered the holy city, He neared the culmination of a long journey toward Golgotha. He had come to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and now was the time—this was the place—to secure that salvation. Palm Sunday marked the start of what is often called “Passion Week,” the final seven days of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Palm Sunday was the “beginning of the end” of Jesus’ work on earth.” *(Excerpts from gotquestions.org/Palm-Sunday.html)*

Insight

“The story of the triumphal entry is one of contrasts, and those contrasts contain applications to believers. It is the story of the King who came as a lowly servant on a donkey, not a prancing steed, not in royal robes, but on the clothes of the poor and humble. Jesus Christ comes not to conquer by force as earthly kings but by love, grace, mercy, and His own sacrifice for His people. His is not a kingdom of armies and splendor but of lowliness and servanthood. He conquers not nations but hearts and minds. His message is one of peace with God, not of temporal peace. If Jesus has made a triumphal entry into our hearts, He reigns there in peace and love. As His followers, we exhibit those same qualities, and the world sees the true King living and reigning in triumph in us.” *(Excerpts from gotquestions.org/triumphal-entry.html)*



Gospel Reading

“After saying these things, Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem. When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: “Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you’ll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything, asks, ‘What are you doing?’ say, ‘His Master needs him.’” The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, “What are you doing untying the colt?” They said, “His Master needs him.” They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed:

Blessed is he who comes,
the king in God’s name!
All’s well in heaven!
Glory in the high places!

Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, “Teacher, get your disciples under control!” But he said, “If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.” When the city came into view, he wept over it. “If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it’s too late. In the days ahead your enemies are going to bring up their heavy artillery and surround you, pressing in from every side. They’ll smash you and your babies on the pavement. Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn’t recognize and welcome God’s personal visit.” *The Message*

What It Could Mean?

“The journey that began ten chapters ago is almost over: “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, [Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51).

Immediately after that, Jesus was rejected by a Samaritan village. James and John wanted to call down fire to destroy those Samaritans, but Jesus rebuked them and they went on to another village. That event was a prelude to what will soon take place in Jerusalem: the deadly rejection of Jesus, his refusal to take revenge on his enemies, and his determination to follow God’s call wherever it would take him.

As Jesus rode along on the borrowed donkey, people spread their cloaks on the road. We expect them to be waving branches of some kind, even though palms appear only in John’s gospel. But no one is waving branches here, only taking off their coats. Were these people from Bethphage and Bethany or had they followed Jesus from Galilee?

Luke tells us “the whole multitude of disciples began to praise God.” A whole multitude must have been larger than twelve! As they moved into the city, they sang without a bulletin or a hymnal: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Psalm 118) They borrowed a line the angels sang to the shepherds: “Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” To some authorities, it sounded like a dangerous song: Blessed is King Jesus — we shall not be moved! Peace in highest heaven – we shall not be moved!

“Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” “I tell you,” said Jesus, “if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Who is shouting to be heard this Holy Week? Followers of Jesus are called to listen to those who have been silenced. When we do, the Gospel comes alive in radically new ways. Who is longing to be heard where we are?

What stories do they long to tell? Will we walk past without stopping? “I tell you,” said Jesus, “if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

When we refuse to listen or see those who have been silenced, we hear Jesus weeping once again over our cities and our churches. “If you, even you, had only recognized on that day the things that make for peace!” Jesus seems to speak to us when he says, “even you,” looking beyond that day in Jerusalem into our own time. Jesus will not call down fire upon his enemies. His face is set on God’s mission and he will not turn around until all is accomplished. Jesus rides into Jerusalem sustained by the words that will be his last from the cross: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (*Excerpts from workingpreacher.org by Barbara Lundblad*)

Readings for Further Study

- [Matthew 21: 1-17/Mark 11: 1-11/John 12: 12-19](#) *Jesus’ triumphal entry recorded in three other Gospels*
- [Zechariah 9:9](#) *Prophecy fulfilled: King coming on the foal of a donkey*
- [Psalm 118: 25-26](#) *Jewish crowds quoting prophecy of Christ*

Palm Sunday Blessing

“May the spirit of this holy occasion...

May the warmth of the season...

And may the beauty of Springtime...

Make your heart bloom with joy and happiness.” ~ *Unknown*

A Prayer

Hosanna, King, blessed are you, our king, who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven! Even if our voices were silenced, creation itself would rise up to praise you! Hosanna in the Highest! **Amen.**