

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 19:28-44

Matthew 21:1-10, Mark 11:1-12, John 12:12-19

Reading: John 12:12-26

Sermon #82

July 5, 2020

The True King!

Every Detail Is In Jesus' Control (v. 28-34)

Luke begins this narrative of Jesus' approach to Jerusalem with what might appear as simple background information. Reading at verse 28, “**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’ ”** and the disciples departed with the colt.

This background information of the disciples going into the village 3 ½ miles east of Jerusalem to get the colt is not unimportant. Luke reports this pre-entry event to show us that this seemingly unimportant event in preparation for Jesus to enter Jerusalem takes place just as Jesus said it would and it is a marker. It marks the fact that our Lord, King Jesus, who will ride this unbroken colt into Jerusalem, knows every small detail that must take place for His entrance into the great city of Jerusalem. Luke wants us to see Jesus is omniscient or all knowing. He knows the past, the present and the future in minute detail. Except for a brief time within the confines of earth as the Man-God, Jesus has existed as the

True God beyond time and confines of space. He is Lord of heaven and earth. He is Creator of the cosmos. He knows exactly what He is doing and what will happen in the next few days.

Jesus came to earth for this purpose; the salvation of mankind, and it is God's divine plan that will unfold exactly as designed before creation. As Jesus had said earlier, to the crowd of believers and seekers and the curious and even His enemies, **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."** (John 10:11) Jesus spoke of the near future and now that future has arrived. Jesus will control every detail and in doing so, sending His disciples for this colt speaks loudly of His divinity. Jesus controls every detail leading up to and including His crucifixion. This is why Jesus said earlier in chapter 18 to the His 12 disciples, **"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³ And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise."** Jesus is in charge and has total control of all events and all will unfold and happen exactly as He ordained.

I was thinking about the 2 disciples returning with the colt; can you imagine their conversation on their way back to Jesus? Leading this unbroken colt that comes without hesitation and having experienced things just as Jesus said they would their conversation must have been lively. They found the colt and the owner questioned what they were doing and when they answered the owner does not hesitate but says take the colt to Jesus. They had to wonder what would be next, what was Jesus planning for Jerusalem? Here is a humble King coming to save God's people; as Jesus had said earlier, **"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."** (Matthew 8:20) This King

owned no house; He had no material wealth and borrowed a colt to ride into Jerusalem. Jesus was a humble King, one for whom the future of His subjects was more important to Him than His own life. The Creator of the universe, the owner of everything - Jesus comes to earth and temporarily gives up His ownership of everything, borrows a donkey to enter His city for the salvation of mankind. What a humble King for He is the final and complete and total sacrifice that people may receive eternal life in the presence of Himself, the King of kings; those who submit to His kingship receive heaven; which outshines Jerusalem, the city of kings. What does this King demand in return? That one give up the ownership of their mortal life and spend their life loving Him, serving Him, serving others. This cost is not that great - for by giving up the right to one's life, which is like a vapor in time, and recognizing all they have belongs to their King and that they are a steward to use what the King gives for His glory and to expand His kingdom; for this life of worship, in return one receives eternal life in the King's presence forever experiencing His glory. Is it any wonder that the disciples readily gave their lives for the glory of their King? How about you? Will you hold onto your mortal life dearly and sacrifice eternity or surrender to the King of kings and receive Him forever?

As Prophesized, So It Is (v. 35-40)

We continue following this extraordinary event and journey in verse 35, "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.’ ” We read in verse 37 “the whole multitude of his disciples.” So, we understand it was not just the 12, but all those who had been following, listening to Him teach and revealing the eternal truths of God. For all these people and for all the others who joined them this scene was unmistakable; it had been predicted over 500 years earlier by the prophet Zechariah who declared, “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.” (Zechariah (9:9) As Jesus rides into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecy, the image from the past given by Zechariah shouts to this very moment in time, “*Here is the Messiah, here is your long-awaited King!*” The people knew this was fulfillment of prophecy, Zechariah had said this King would be mounted on a colt donkey and would bring salvation and yet most, led by the Pharisees and influenced by the evil one wanted to kill Jesus. They desired their sin instead of salvation. Today, for most, it remains the same; they desire their sin and not salvation.

The disciples place their cloaks on the colt so King Jesus would have a saddle while others threw their cloaks onto the street ahead of Jesus making a “red carpet” so-to-speak entrance into Jerusalem. We read of this in Matthew,⁸ “Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.”⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ ” (Matthew 21:8 & 9) This too had happened before for one of Israel’s kings and now in the same manner these people declare Jesus as the King just as they had for Jehu 800 hundred years earlier as we find in 2 Kings, “ ‘Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.’

¹³ Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, ‘Jehu is king.’ ” (2 Kings 9:12-13) The scene is similar to Jehu, but much greater for this is Jesus, the Messiah King and God very God, who was entering Jerusalem, taking up our passage again in verse 37 “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!’ ” They recognized, at least at this point in time, that Jesus is the King sent by God.

At that moment, as verse 37 states, the people “praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen” Jesus perform. All the miracles Jesus had performed became fresh in their minds again and His teachings begin to make sense and they praised God for all Jesus had done. Unfortunately, most were celebrating Jesus for what He had done and not who He is. I can hear the people shouting out, “*He heals the blind! The lame walk! The deaf hear! The dead are raised! Sinners are forgiven!*” They even shout “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” But they do not shout, *Jesus is the Messiah! The chosen One of God is here!*” Can you see the image in your mind and hear these shouts of the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem? Unbelieving observers were unclear as to who Jesus was and even all His followers who shouted, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” did not fully understand.

All His followers were declaring Jesus to be the King who comes in the name of the Lord, they were still seeing Jesus as a human king, blessed by God. But they had not yet, made the connection Jesus was King of kings and God very God. Within days many would begin to realize Jesus is King of kings and God very God, once He rose from the grave. It was exactly how this event was to

be because God ordained it so. For those listening today, make no mistake Jesus Christ is King of kings. History and the Bible has shown Jesus to be King when He entered into Jerusalem and still remains King today and He will be King forever. Jesus is the One eternally seated on the Davidic throne. He will rule and reign forever.

Jesus being recognized as the King blessed by the Lord did not please everyone. It was so obvious that the religious leaders were trying to get Jesus' followers to be quiet. As we read in verse 39, [“some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’](#) At this juncture, I would like to make a point and I bring it before you in the hope to add some clarity. I have heard sermons that say the people were fickle for on this day the people were declaring Jesus as King but a week later they shouted “crucify Him!” I do not believe this to be true. What I do believe is there were two different groups of people. These in our passage today were Jesus' followers or as it says in verse 37, [“the whole multitude of his disciples”](#). In the Greek word translated as “multitude” implies a large crowd beyond counting – so there were hundreds if not thousands of people declaring Jesus as King. The other group who in a few days shouted “crucify Him!” was made up of those opposed to Jesus and people of the city that followed the prodding and manipulation of the Pharisees and those who were under the influence of the evil one. I believe they were two very different groups of people.

Now returning to our passage where the Pharisees asked Jesus to silence His followers. I want us to notice that Jesus does not deny who they declare He is and does not tell them to be quiet. The time is now right, as ordained from eternity past. Many times, before when He performed a miracle or was in similar situations and folks would begin declaring that He was the Son of God or the Messiah - Jesus would instruct them to tell no one and to remain silent. Now it is different. It is

time everyone knew who He is. Those under the influence of the evil one, like “the Pharisees in the crowd *who said to him, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’*” like these Pharisees many of those following Jesus were ones who had hearts of stone prior to meeting Jesus. But they were unlike the Pharisees whose hearts remained of stone. Now they were given hearts of flesh by God. If these spiritually awakened followers of Christ would stay silent, the Creator of the dead stones the temple was built of, the Creator would make these stones praise Jesus as God and King, the stones would declare Jesus to be the Messiah. So, the dead temple stones understand this event better than the religious leaders; these Pharisees were literally, dumber than lifeless stone or as my father would have said, “they were dumber than a bag rocks”. We see the truth of this as we read Jesus’ reply to the Pharisees and their followers, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” So, it is a simple choice; one can give glory to God by praising Jesus or if they remain silent, creation itself will burst forth in praise to the One who created everything. As the prophet Isaiah said 8 centuries earlier for he knew Jesus would come and He controlled all creation, the prophet wrote, ¹¹ “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:11-12) Jesus had the power, as Creator, to bring stones to life, to make the hills sing and the trees clap at His presence. So, the King will not tell His followers, those who have been spiritually awakened, to be quiet for they are celebrating that the King of kings has come! On the other hand, the unbelievers, which include the Pharisees are without excuse as Paul so clearly revealed, ¹⁸ “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For

what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.** ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:18-21) Because Jerusalem was filled with the ungodly and unrighteous, the truth was suppressed and the people would not listen.

Jerusalem Fails To Recognize Jesus, The True King (v. 41-44)

As we come to the end of this passage, we find Jerusalem, the city of the kings, does not listen to or recognize their long-awaited King. I take up Luke’s record in verse 41 where we hear the heart of Jesus the Christ and King, “**And when *Jesus* 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.’ ”** Here, Luke records yet another example of the sovereignty and the humility found in the person of Jesus Christ. Jerusalem, as the capital, represents all Israel and Israel is missing what the prophets had declared for thousands of years; the King had come and yet the people not did not recognize the prophesied King, but they rejected the King of kings and they take this stance to their eternal doom. The 2 destinies are now brought into focus; those who give their obedience and lives to the true King of kings will be rewarded and those who do not – will die a second death for all eternity. It is by this knowledge, as the

Creator and King, that Jesus is moved to tears of deep sorrow. He knows what will happen to those who reject Him at this time and throughout the centuries until His return. Those without Jesus as their Lord and Savior and King will die in their sin and forever be delegated to destruction and eternal punishment. It is here that the King's sovereignty and mercy meet, our Lord knows every detail of every unbeliever's destruction and yet He sheds tears of mercy.

Jesus comes with peace and mercy and hope, but Jerusalem and all of Israel will not accept God's terms for peace. In their arrogance and sin, they would rather die than surrender. Jesus says to these people **“Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”** They could humbly bow their knee to the King and as a result every sin would be pardoned, but they do not believe God, they do not believe Jesus is who He says He is – the Messiah King. It is by their rejection of God that they seal their doom.

What I also found amazing Jesus tells them since you rejected Me - Jerusalem and its people will suffer. Reading at verse 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 side⁴⁴ 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.”** Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years in the future by the armies of the Roman Emperor Titus. Secular reports of the destruction of Jerusalem included this information: *The Roman legions surrounded the city and barricaded it from the outside and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold. By the year 70, a few days before Passover the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began a systematic ransacking of the city. Most of the victims were*

peaceful citizens, weak and unarmed, butchered wherever they were caught. Round the Altar the heaps of corpses grew higher and higher, while down the Sanctuary steps poured a river of blood and the bodies of those killed at the top slithered to the bottom. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple that served as the center of Judaism. Sounds like, to me, history worked out exactly as Jesus said. Other reports verify that the temple was totally gone and the only thing left was the rocks under the ground which served as the foundation. The people of Jerusalem were killed, taken captive to work in the mines, or taken to be slaughtered before the crowds in the arena. Jesus knew the future and all it contained and it was this knowledge that moved Him to tears.

It was not because those who in a few days shouted “crucify him” or because of their sins or the sins of the citizens of Jerusalem 40 years later that caused their destruction. It was because, as Jesus said in verse 44, “**you did not know the time of your visitation.**” What did our Lord and King mean by this statement? Literally, Jesus was saying, *You people did not recognize the very time God visited you.* God had come to Jerusalem seeking peace and the people’s salvation and they rejected Him. They did not believe. Genesis ends with “**Joseph saying to his brothers, ‘I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’**”²⁵ **Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, ‘God will surely visit you ...’** (Genesis 50:24-25) Joseph saw thousands of years before Jesus came to earth that God as King would come to the land God the Father had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Just as God had led them out of bondage of Egypt; Jesus had arrived to lead them out of the bondage of their sin. Jesus the King arrived to offer mercy and they rejected Him.

Let me close with these final thoughts. All who reject Jesus' offer of mercy and salvation will be assigned a place in eternal fire and judgment. This eternal destruction will be much worse than what the Jews suffered at the hand of Titus in 70 AD. They will suffer a destruction that never ends.

Having heard the Word of God, let me ask, have you accepted God's terms of peace? Have you bowed in reverence and worship the true King? Do you understand that God has visited us in the person of Jesus Christ; not for wrath nor vengeance but for mercy and salvation?

It is my prayer these great truths ring sweet in our ears. I call us to embrace the King and live with Him forever. The King is alive and here, if one rejects the King and as He said earlier, they will be slaughtered before Him. The true King has entered the city, He has entered every corner of planet earth. May we join in the refrain of the believers throughout history, ["Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"](#) As believers may we add a shout, "Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is the eternal King!" Amen and amen!