**Series – Dr. Luke’s Perspective on Jesus**

**Text – Luke 19:28-40**

**Message 78 - (March 24, 2019)**

**ARRIVAL OF THE KING**

***28And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.29When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, 30saying, “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. 31If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” 32So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. 33And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34And they said, “The Lord has need of it.”35And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37As 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, 38saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”***

**Introduction**

1. I attended a men’s conference last week. In the final session, the leader was talking about speaking the truth effectively. Part of the talk involved some counsel about preparing sermons and Bible studies. He talked about reading and rereading and rereading the text 25 times before trying to arrange an outline. He said it was helpful to come up with one word that described what the passage was about. I suppose if I was doing that for this passage, I might use the word, “Arrived.”

2. We have traveled with Jesus and His disciples for a number of weeks now as He made His way to Jerusalem. In today’s passage, He had arrived. I was thinking that as He was coming into the city, He came in as a **prophet** as He gave explicit instructions to two of His disciples about getting a donkey for Him to ride into the city. That is intriguing. As He rode into the city, He came as a **king**. That’s what the people called Him and they got it right, more than they knew! Later we will discover that He arrived as a **priest** – who would offer a sacrifice for sin – but that sacrifice offered would be Himself and it would be a once-for-all sacrifice. The prophet, priest and King had arrived.

3. Context plays an important part in understanding every passage of Scripture. Last week we looked at the parable of the nobleman and the minas given to ten servants. The nobleman was Jesus. The servants were disciples. And the citizens were those who would a few days later declare that they did not want this man to reign over them and demanded His crucifixion. In the parable, there was a joyful reception of the king as there is here in verses 37-38. There was disgruntlement on the part of the one servant who did nothing with his master’s mina as we have here in verse 39 in the words of the Pharisees. And finally, there was utter destruction at the end of the parable as there is in next week’s text in prophetic form in verses 41-44.

4. What happens when Jesus comes to town; what happens when He arrives?

1. **WHEN JESUS CAME TO TOWN – HOW HE WAS RECEIVED**
2. With ***praise***
3. There was **legitimate recognition** of Jesus. A whole multitude of followers were rejoicing and praising God. They were saying, ***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”*** Those were astounding words. Those were prophetic words from Psalm 118. On at least some level this was recognition of Jesus as the one who had been promised. He was seen as Messiah, just as Zechariah had prophesied. ***“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”*** (Zech. 9:9). Here He is…they rejoice! The words the people shouted remind us of the chanting of the angels in the announcement of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. ***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”*** Do you see the connection?
4. There was the **suggestion of the motive** behind their praise. The praise for Jesus was motivated by the mighty works that Jesus had done (v. 37). Praise motivated by His mighty works was commendable, but sadly, short-sighted. The people responded to what they saw, but they really didn’t know who He was. I doubt that they put together the OT prophecies with Jesus.
5. Why do people praise Jesus? Why do we praise Jesus? Is it primarily because of what He has done, or is our response based on who He is? I realize that both are often present when we praise Him, but what reason dominates our praise? I think you know where I am going with this. Our praise certainly should include what Jesus has done, but it ought to begin and end in who He is. If Jesus were to come to our town, how would we respond to Him? I hope it would be with praise for Him! I also hope we would respond to Him…
6. With expectation – Did they see Him as…
7. A fulfillment of the ages – For centuries the prophets had prophesied of the coming Messiah. There were promises in the Davidic covenant that one of David’s descendants would occupy David’s throne forever. Isaiah, 700 years earlier, had promised that a son would be given, a very special child would be born, who would shoulder the government and His rule would never end. It would be a rule of peace and righteousness. The people could have had this in mind when they chanted, ***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.”*** That, however, may be giving them too much credit. More likely they were looking for…
8. A political favor – The people were looking for the overthrow of Roman rule and release from Roman occupation and domination. On several occasions the people looked at Jesus as the potential coming King. At one point they were ready to ***“Make him king by force”*** (John 6:15). Their interest was more toward **what He could do for them** than **how they might respond to Him**.
9. What are our expectations? Are they primarily tied to the glory of God, which includes our faithful obedience to Him, or are our expectations of Jesus tied to the fulfillment of our personal desires? That’s the way He is often marketed to potential followers.  **“Follow Jesus, here is what you get…it is a very good deal!”** If Jesus came to our town how would we receive Him? There was praise and there was expectation, but there was also criticism.
10. With ***criticism***
11. Theological concerns – There is certainly nothing wrong with the desire to be theologically correct. O that we all would work harder on this! We tend to be so imprecise –sloppy in our theology – and sometimes just wrong! The Pharisees were upset because they understood what the praises from the people suggested, namely, proclaiming Jesus to be Messiah. These leaders interrupted the Lord and called Him out to correct His disciples. They were assuming that these followers are entirely mistaken as to Jesus’ identity, and for His followers to continue saying these things about Jesus was in their minds bordering on blasphemy. Not to correct these errant people was to share in that blasphemy! But what if the people were correct? What if Jesus was the Messiah? That thought never even entered their minds! They were critical of Jesus’ theology.
12. Personal concerns – My guess is that the concern of the Pharisees was more personal than theological. The theological concern was good cover for the real matter at hand. Jesus’ growing popularity meant that the Pharisees’ popularity was slipping. They were jealous. They were being upstaged. Their minds had been made up. He must be an imposter because He did not check with them first! He would have to be silenced one way or another!
13. If Jesus came to our town, how would we respond to Him? What would we expect from Him? We are going to look ahead a little to what is coming in the next couple of weeks…
14. **WHEN JESUS CAME TO TOWN – WHAT HE SAW**
15. A ***lost*** and ***ignorant*** people (and He responded in a display of tender mercy) ***41And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”***

1. This is surprising, particularly in the context in which it is mentioned. On the one hand, we are not surprised at Jesus’ compassion. That was evident throughout the Gospel accounts. But Luke juxtaposes His mercy, as He weeps over the city, with His sovereignty, as He declares the judgment that is coming. That creates for many some tension.

2. Some say that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because His will for them to be saved was not coming to pass. He would have delighted in their salvation, but they were resistant and in fact, would in a few days cry out for Him to be crucified. He wept because His purpose for them had failed. There was nothing more He could do. They had rejected Him. Is that how we should see this? Surely if Jesus can make praise come from rocks He could do the same from those whose hearts were as hard as rocks. But if He was able to do that, why didn’t He? Instead of weeping, why didn’t He just change their hearts?

3. I want to suggest to you that it is possible for a sovereign God to be sovereign in the salvation of people (**He** determines and **He** saves) and still weep over those who are lost and who will be judged and who will perish. He wept over the city – a city with a long history of killing the prophets and rejecting God, a city that was about to reject God in the flesh and put Him to death! He wept over this city that in less than a generation would be utterly destroyed. Jesus is not the harsh judge who would delight in people’s destruction, but rather the compassionate Savior who knows full well what they would soon face –in the short term and for eternity. The people failed to understand that the time of God’s visitation was upon them.

4. For those of us who are convinced that salvation is all of God and that He is the one who quickens the heart of the unbeliever through regeneration and makes that rebellious sinner willing to repent and believe, we sometimes communicate those truths without passion; we make known the Gospel without a heart that is breaking for the lost! We can believe God is sovereign in salvation and still plead with people to trust the Savior. Mercy and sovereignty are not enemies. The Sovereign Savior wept over the sinful city. Those were genuine tears from a sovereign Lord. We will look at that more next week. Jesus also saw…

1. A ***selfish*** and ***arrogant*** people (Here is where we see more of a display of the Lord’s sovereignty)
2. As Jesus made His way to the temple mount He found the religious leaders taking refuge in His Father’s House, making it their headquarters for profiteering, rather than for fervent prayer. In righteous indignation, with a zeal for His Heavenly Father, Jesus drove the scoundrels out of the temple.
3. Luke’s account is brief but it is enough to show us the authority of Jesus. He drove them out. He declared what they were, selfish and arrogant, bringing reproach on the name of His Father in Heaven.
4. He had great compassion but He also was the sovereign and He would not permit a selfish and arrogant people to continue in their mockery of God. If Jesus came to our town, what would He see in the people who live here? What would He see in those who profess to belong to God? Finally
5. **WHEN JESUS CAME TO TOWN – WHAT HE ENDURED** (As we move through chapter 19 and into 20, we will discover…)
6. His enemies were bent on His ***destruction*** – After clearing the temple of the moneychangers, Jesus remained in the temple teaching, which had been His daily practice. The religious leaders were not happy about that. They despised His mercy toward the people and His authority over them. They sought for His demise. It is amazing what unbelievers will do to rid themselves of the Lord when He begins to encroach on territory they believe belongs to them? The very people who would pride themselves on keeping the Law, even tithing their spices, were willing to commit murder if that was what it took to rid them of Jesus. Jealous anger warps our values to the point of doing terrible things in the name of setting things straight! How could these people plan to destroy Jesus in light of His declared authority and extensive ministry?
7. His enemies were determined to undermine His ***authority*** (20:1-8) – One of the ways to undermine authority was to demand authentication for exercising such authority. They really didn’t care what He said, but it might produce a nice sound bite that could be used to undermine His authority. They quickly learned however that it was impossible to “trick” the Son of God!
8. His enemies were set on ***discrediting*** His ministry (20:19-26) –They surrounded Jesus with spies. They feigned sincerity while relentlessly asking trick questions, though never able to trap Him into saying something to incriminate Himself. Instead, Luke records, ***“And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer, they became silent”*** (v. 26). He who can make stones cry out praise can make enemies mute when they try to bring charges against Him!

**Conclusion**

1. If Jesus came to our town, to our church, what would He receive from us? Would He receive our praise? What would He see in us? What would He have to endure from us? Would He find us faithful followers or seasonal saints? Would we be on the lookout for what we could get, or would our motivation be to bring Him glory? Would we stoop to discredit His ministry or undermine His authority because we were not getting our way, or we didn’t like His answers to our questions? Would we balk at His sovereignty? Would we be ashamed of His weeping?
2. It may be a surprise, but Jesus has come to our town. In fact, He is present in our church – even now, in the lives of those of us who believe in Him. He has extended His mercy to us, and yet He is sovereign over us. He desires our praise to come from hearts that have been purified through His love and grace. He calls us to respond to Him in faithful living, not merely for what we might get out of it, but for His glory alone. He expects us to work in concert with Him, not in an attempt to undermine His authority or besmirch His name. He is at work transforming our lives.
3. We ought not be surprised when we faithfully live for Him that we will be treated like He was treated. People will try to undermine our ministries and catch us in compromise. They would be happy to shut us up and put us away so that we could have no impact on those around us. They prefer that we be neither seen nor heard. When we seek to act in mercy, we will be criticized for having no backbone or a hidden agenda. If we stand up to be counted, we will be called arrogant and uncaring. But in the end, that is okay, because it is good to be like Jesus! Suppose Jesus came to our town? He is here. How are we responding?