

## THE TIME IS NOW

### I. [Luke 19:28-44](#)

A. Last Sunday we began a journey to Jerusalem with Jesus. Dr Luke was our main tour guide. We went through the ancient city of Jericho where Jesus' entourage grew. There Jesus healed a blind man named Bartimaeus who cried out to the Son of David for mercy, all the while the crowd tried to silence him. There too we encountered a short-statured tax collector named Zacchaeus up in a sycamore tree. Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully and repentantly, even though people were stunned Jesus reached out to such a rotten sinner. Then we made our way to Bethany where Jesus' friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. At a dinner in Jesus' honor, Mary anointed her Lord's feet with expensive perfume, despite the sneers of Judas the thief and betrayer. Today something big is about to unfold.

B. Jesus is on the doorsteps of Jerusalem as Passover is about to begin. Folks that strolled through Jericho cut off palm branches for the ensuing celebration. Pilgrims were entering the holy city with their bleating lambs in tow. With Jesus were folks He'd either healed or who had witnessed the healings, including Lazarus whom He'd raised from the dead. Could this be one of Israel's greatest prophets? Could this be the Messiah King who would overthrow the Romans? Could this be the True Passover Lamb who would take away the sins of the world? It matters who you say and believe He is.

C. Luke 19:28-44 (ESV) Luke describes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

1) V28 *"And when He had said these things, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem."* (No matter what direction you came from in Israel, Jerusalem was always up.)

2) V29-34 *"When He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, 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. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it."'"* (Did Jesus prearrange this months before? Years before? Just a mysterious divine act? Must have been okay. Jesus was certainly no donkey thief!)

3) V35-38 *"And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 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, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"'* (They shouted, Hosanna! and other Messianic proclamations...)

4) V39-40 *"And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."* (These Scriptural declarations were reserved for the Messiah and the Jewish leaders didn't think Jesus filled the bill. But Jesus more than filled the billed. He was God the Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. But they were totally blind to the reality!)

5) V41-44 *"And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, 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. 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 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."'* (He's weeping for the blind who will not see! If they could just have eyes like blind Bartimaeus who cried out for mercy to the Son of David (Messiah) even before Jesus restored his sight.)

D. More than anything, I do not want any of you to miss the time of your visitation when it comes to Jesus Christ. Bartimaeus didn't miss his. Zacchaeus didn't miss his. Mary and Martha and Lazarus didn't miss theirs. Eleven of the twelve didn't miss theirs. But most of Jerusalem and the leaders therein missed their time. Want to learn a new prayer? *"Lord, help me not miss the time of Your visitation!"*

E. While God lives outside of time and space, for us, timing really is everything. Solomon said there's a time to be born and a time to die and countless times of importance in between. The Scriptures are clear, Jesus came at just the right time as foreordained before the foundations of the world came to be. Listen to this:

1) Galatians 4:4-6 (ESV) *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"'* (It started a few miles away in a Bethlehem manger and would culminate in Jerusalem.)

2) Romans 5:6-8 (ESV) *"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (That's us!) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows His*

love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **(It was planned with God's love and it was carried out by God's love and all this at just the right time!)**

**3) Ephesians 1:7-10 (ESV)** "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth."

**F. A lot of people wonder if we are in the end times. Some are infatuated. While biblical eschatologists study every Scriptural nuance for signs and clues and vehemently disagree with each other, our times personally are all numbered. If we knew the world would end in 50 to 100 years, we might sit up and take notice. But in less than 100 years this room will be filled with people other than us. There's a time to be born and a time to die and our personal end of days will be here sooner rather than later.**

**G. Because of the sovereignty of God and His amazing love, we pray no one misses the time of their visitation with respect to Jesus. We pray no one misses the time to come to know Him personally, that time where He calls you from death to life, from darkness to light, from eternal separation to everlasting fellowship where time never ends. When is that time? While that time varies for each of us, I pray that time is now for you if it hasn't happened already. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NIV)** "As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, "In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. **(Maybe that 'now' is this minute. Maybe it's this day, this week, or this month. But don't let that 'now time' pass you by. If now is the time, respond to Him calling you!)**

\* Close with Prayer...

### **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

#### **Luke 19:28-44 (ESV)**

**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." **35** And 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." **41** And when He 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."

#### **Galatians 4:4-6 (ESV)**

**4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

#### **Romans 5:6-8 (ESV)**

**6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### **Ephesians 1:7-10 (ESV)**

**7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

## [2 Corinthians 6:1-2 \(NIV\)](#)

**1** As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. **2** For He says, "In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

## [Film Clips & Other Links](#)

"Passion Song" by Sean Carter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzatBcvbohQ>

Palm Sunday-God's Way - HyperPixelsMedia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALsCYnuzQQg>

Palm Sunday - From "The Gospel of John"

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMbF\\_6c1EZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMbF_6c1EZE)

Palm Sunday: Why is it Significant? - Doug Eaton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACjo5BJ7JWk>

Palm Sunday - Spirit Juice Studios (Very Potent!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Vor55BoE0>

How Your Habits Show and Shape Your Heart - David Mathis (Thanks Mark!)

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-your-habits-show-and-shape-your-heart>

## [Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Matthew 21:1-11 \(ESV\)](#)

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to Me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, **5** "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and He sat on them. **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!" **10** And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" **11** And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

### [Mark 11:1-10 \(ESV\)](#)

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

### [John 12:12-19 \(ESV\)](#)

**12** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. **17** The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

### **Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)**

**9** 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.

### **Psalms 118:25-26 (ESV)**

**25** Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! **26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.

### **Isaiah 49:8-9 (NIV)**

**8** This is what the Lord says: "In the time of My favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, **9** to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.

### **Revelation 7:9-12 (NKJV)**

**9** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" **11** All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

### **Quote by Augustus Toplady**

"When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves."

- Augustus Montague Toplady (1740 - 1778) was an Anglican pastor and hymn writer. He is best remembered as the author of the hymn, "Rock of Ages".

### **Quote by Bill Hybels**

"But everyone who lined the streets had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were political activists; they'd heard Jesus had supernatural power, and they wanted him to use it to free Israel from Roman rule. Others had loved ones who were sick or dying. They waved branches, hoping for physical healing. Some were onlookers merely looking for something to do, while others were genuine followers who wished Jesus would establish himself as an earthly king. Jesus was the only one in the parade who knew why he was going to Jerusalem – to die. He had a mission, while everyone else had an agenda."

- Bill Hybels is the founding and senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL.

### **Powerful Prayer by David Maddalena**

"I worship You Lord! You did not enter your holy city Jerusalem on the back of a war horse, but humbly and on a donkey. You knew that You were surrounded by murderers, yet You came in peace, and by Your sacrifice You would utterly conquer death before the week had passed. You, oh Lord, are blessed and worthy of my praise. You have saved Your people. I say, "You are my King!"... I long to live in the city where You sit on the throne! Establish Your Kingdom, so that Your people can live in peace. Jesus, I bow before You, and I will sing Your praises until Your Kingdom comes and is established, and forever after."

- David Maddalena is a writer, poet, pastor, teacher, student, and artist.

### **What Palm Sunday Is All About**

By Tom Barnard

The crowd was clueless. They never got it right. They shouted praises. He wept. They looked for a warrior-king riding a white stallion. They got a carpenter riding a donkey. They wanted hype. They got a healer. They wanted a prophet. They got One who fulfilled prophecy. They wanted a scepter. They got a Savior. They got nothing they asked for but everything they needed. Only they never got it. They were clueless. Jesus was the only One there who really knew what was happening on that first Palm Sunday.

It's so easy to become like those people in Jerusalem. We think we know what's going on, but we really don't have a clue. We have a bad week, and we blame God. Our kids act out, and we blame the school. We work two jobs and wonder why things aren't better at home. Jesus comes to our town, and He wants to help; but we don't recognize Him for who He is. We think He will be impressed with our boats and our businesses and our stuff. He is not. He wants our hearts. That's what Palm Sunday is all about.

## **Satan Does Not Hold the Keys of Death**

By R.C. Sproul

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/satan-keys-death/>

We have different vocations with respect to the jobs and tasks God gives us in this life. But we all share in the vocation of death. Every one of us is called to die. That vocation is as much a calling from God as is a “call” to the ministry of Christ. Sometimes the call comes suddenly and without warning. Sometimes it comes with advance notification. But it comes to all of us. And it comes from God.

I am aware that there are teachers who tell us that God has nothing to do with death. Death is seen strictly as the fiendish device of the Devil. All pain, suffering, disease, and tragedy are blamed on the Evil One. God is absolved of any responsibility. This view is designed to make sure that God is free of blame for anything that goes wrong in this world. “God always wills healing,” we are told. If that healing does not happen, then the fault lies with Satan—Or with us. Death, they say, is not in the plan of God. It represents a victory for Satan over the realm of God.

Such views may bring temporary relief to the afflicted. But they are not true. They have nothing to do with biblical Christianity. They are intended to absolve God of any blame, but they contradict His sovereignty.

Yes, there is a Devil. He is our archenemy. He will do anything in his power to bring misery into our lives. But Satan is not sovereign. Satan does not hold the keys of death.

When Jesus appeared in a vision to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, He identified Himself with these words: “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever-more. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1:17–18).

Jesus holds the keys to death, and Satan cannot snatch those keys out of His hand. Christ’s grip is firm. He holds the keys because He owns the keys. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. That includes all authority over life and death. The angel of death is at His beck and call.

World history has witnessed the emergence of many forms of religious dualism. Dualism affirms the existence of two equal and opposite forces. These forces are variously called good and evil, God and Satan, Yin and Yang. The two forces are locked in eternal combat. Since they are equal as well as opposite, the conflict goes on forever, with neither side ever gaining the upper hand. The world is doomed to serve as the eternal battleground between these hostile forces. We are the victims of their struggle, the pawns in their eternal chess game.

Dualism is on a collision course with Christianity. The Christian faith has no stock in dualism. Satan may be opposed to God, but he is by no means equal to God. Satan is a creature; God is the Creator. Satan is potent; God is omnipotent. Satan is knowledgeable and crafty; God is omniscient. Satan is localized in his presence; God is omnipresent. Satan is finite; God is infinite. The list could go on. But it is clear from Scripture that Satan is not an ultimate force in any sense.

We are not doomed to an ultimate conflict with no hope of resolution. The message of Scripture is one of victory—full, final, and ultimate victory. It is not our doom that is certain, but Satan’s. His head has been crushed by the heel of Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega.

Above all suffering and death stands the crucified and risen Lord. He has defeated the ultimate enemy of life. He has vanquished the power of death. He calls us to die, a call to obedience in the final transition of life. Because of Christ, death is not final. It is a passage from one world to the next.

God does not always will healing. If He did, He would suffer endless frustration, seeing His will being repeatedly thwarted in the deaths of His people. He did not will the healing of Stephen from the wounds inflicted by the stones that were hurled against him. He did not will the healing of Moses, of Joseph, of David, of Paul, of Augustine, of Martin Luther, of John Calvin. These all died in faith. Ultimate healing comes through death and after death.

Teachers argue that there is healing in the atonement of Christ. Indeed there is. Jesus bore all of our sins on the cross. Yet none of us is free from sin in this life. Likewise, none of us is free from sickness in this life. The healing that is in the cross is real. We participate in its benefits now, in this life. But the fullness of the healing from both sin and disease takes place in heaven. We still must die at our appointed times.

- Article by R.C. Sproul, August 24, 2014, Ligonier Ministries.