

## “INTO JERUSALEM, STRAIGHT FOR THE CROSS”

### I. Luke 19:28-44

A. We have been journeying with Jesus thru Luke's gospel for several weeks...

- 1) Today we actually arrive there, we walk beside Jesus as He rides into Jerusalem with palm branches waving and people cheering Him as Messiah!
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) one more time: *"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

B. Luke 19:28-44 takes us right into the holy city of Jerusalem...

- 1) While Luke doesn't say, Jesus' triumphal entry comes right after Lazarus' resurrection. Followers and Passover pilgrims are arriving simultaneously.
- 2) People threw their cloaks on the road, waved palm branches, and shouted *Hosanna* as well as other Messianic declarations of praise...
- 3) The Jewish leaders asked Jesus to make His followers stop, but Jesus said: *"I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."*
- 4) Jesus weeps over Jerusalem as He rides in, seeing their coming fall...

C. Let me ask you all a few questions...

- 1) When Jesus said, *"If these were silent, the very stones would cry out..."* was that mere hyperbole or essentially spot on? Rom. 8:18-23...
- 2) Do you know the things, even the One, who will make for peace for you? The One who will bring peace between you and God? Col. 1:19-23...
- 3) When was the day of your visitation with respect to Jesus the Messiah? Or are you still waiting for that day of visitation? 2 Cor. 5:20--21 & 6:1-2...
- 4) Did you wave your palm branches once upon a time only to turn like this Jerusalem crowd? In anger at an unanswered prayer? In disillusionment? In frustration? Perhaps not one who yelled, *"crucify Him!"* but maybe you just quietly walked away...
- 5) Maybe you've yet to acknowledge Him or perhaps dismissed Him as just another great moral teacher, a notable prophet but a mere man whose tomb is still occupied? *"The late Jesus"* It matters who you profess this Jesus to be... Rom. 10:8-13...

D. Jesus' next few days in Jerusalem would rock the world... Among other things:

- 1) Jesus went to the temple and cleared it of the moneychangers...
- 2) His authority was questioned by the chief priests and teachers...
- 3) He told more parables that impugned the guilt of the Jewish leaders...
- 4) They tried to trap Him with questions on taxes and marriage. (Lk. 20:26)
- 5) He contrasted a widow's offering with the giving of the pompous rich...
- 6) He forebodingly tells of Jerusalem's destruction and His own return...
- 7) Each day He taught at the temple; His nights spent on the Mt. of Olives.
- 8) He celebrated the last Passover with His disciples, washed their feet, gave them bread & wine for their first communion, taught them and prayed for them...
- 9) Retiring to the Garden of Gethsemane one last time, He prayed more...
- 10) Then He was arrested, illegally tried, beaten, spat upon, mocked, flogged, crowned with thorns... just as He had foretold... (And all this for you and me!)
- 11) Then He was nailed upon the cross, suffered and died with our sins imputed upon Him. A spear was thrust into His side to affirm His death... He was buried...
- 12) And on the third day, He rose from the dead... He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead... And the palm branches there have never stopped waving!

\* 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."

#### **Romans 8:18-23 (ESV)**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

#### **Colossians 1:19-23 (ESV)**

**19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:20-21 & 6:1-2 (NIV)**

**20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.... **6:1** 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.

#### **Romans 10:8-13 (ESV)**

**8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); **9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. **13** For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

#### **Luke 20:26 (NIV)**

**26** They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

#### **Some Excellent Video Clips**

"Passion Song" by Sean Carter

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

Isaiah 53 for Palm Sunday

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HjgR03yZHM&feature=related>

He Came And Got Me--Matt Chandler

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wIWGGII0Kw>

Sermon Jam--Mark Driscoll with "The Outlaw" by Larry Norman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn7ZINbDny8>

A Spirited Rendition of the Story of Jonah (Thanks Perry!)

<http://vimeo.com/16404771>

## **Bonus Stuff**

### **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.

### **Only A Donkey**

The donkey awakened, his mind still savoring the afterglow of the most exciting day of his life. Never before had he felt such a rush of pleasure and pride.

He walked into town and found a group of people by the well. *"I'll show myself to them,"* he thought.

But they didn't notice him. They went on drawing their water and paid him no mind.

*"Throw your garments down,"* he said crossly. *"Don't you know who I am?"*

They just looked at him in amazement. Someone slapped him across the tail and ordered him to move.

*"Miserable heathens!"* he muttered to himself. *"I'll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me."*

But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to the donkey as he strutted down the main street in front of the market place.

*"The palm branches! Where are the palm branches!"* he shouted. *"Yesterday, you threw palm branches!"*

Hurt and confused, the donkey returned home to his mother.

*"Foolish child,"* she said gently. *"Don't you realize that without Him, you are just an ordinary donkey?"*

Just like the donkey who carried Jesus in Jerusalem, we are most fulfilled when we are in the service of Jesus Christ. Without Him, all our best efforts are like *"filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64:6) and amount to nothing. When we lift up Christ, however, we are no longer ordinary people, but key players in God's plan to redeem the world.

- Edited from Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks by Wayne Rice. Copyright 1994 by Youth Specialties, Inc.

### **Perfect Picture of Peace**

Long ago a man sought the perfect picture of peace. Not finding one that satisfied, he announced a contest to produce this masterpiece. The challenge stirred the imagination of artists everywhere, and paintings arrived from far and wide. Finally the great day of revelation arrived. The judges uncovered one peaceful scene after another, while the viewers clapped and cheered. The tensions grew. Only two pictures remained veiled. As a judge pulled the cover from one, a hush fell over the crowd. A mirror-smooth lake reflected lacy, green birches under the soft blush of the evening sky. Along the grassy shore, a flock of sheep grazed undisturbed. Surely this was the winner.

The man with the vision uncovered the second painting himself, and the crowd gasped in surprise. Could this be peace? A tumultuous waterfall cascaded down a rocky precipice; the crowd could almost feel its cold, penetrating spray. Stormy-gray clouds threatened to explode with lightning, wind and rain. In the midst of the thundering noises and bitter chill, a spindly tree clung to the rocks at the edge of the falls. One of its branches reached out in front of the torrential waters as if foolishly seeking to experience its full power. A little bird had built a nest in the elbow of that branch. Content and undisturbed in her stormy surroundings, she rested on her eggs. With her eyes closed and her wings ready to cover her little ones, she manifested peace that transcends all earthly turmoil. - Story from *A Wardrobe from the King*, Berit Kjos, pp. 45-46