

Palm Sunday - Luke 19 : 28 - 44 (by Karene Scott)

When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, *that* He sent two of His disciples, saying, “Go into the village opposite *you*, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring *it here*. “And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you loosing *it?*’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’

So those who were sent went their way and found *it* just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, “Why are you loosing the colt?”

And they said, “The Lord has need of him.” Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, *many* spread their clothes on the road.

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying:

“ *‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!’*

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”



Palm Sunday, we celebrate it every year. What could we possibly learn this year that is new? Well, the more and more I studied this passage of scripture, the more and more fascinating I found it. The story of Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem is filled with powerful emotions of love, joy, hope, hate, sorrow, prophecies fulfilled and the prediction of Jerusalem’s fall. So let’s dive in because there is much to cover this morning.

We find Jesus on His way towards Jerusalem. We know from other parts of the Bible that He arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover Celebration, which is to be held on the Friday. As He draws near Bethany and Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, He asks two disciples to go ahead and get a colt ready for Him to ride. Jesus tells the disciples exactly how they would find the colt and what the owners would say and it happened just as He said. We know in doing this Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 which says “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and

having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Jesus said something a bit odd.... “Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat.” What? A colt which no one has ever sat on. What does it matter whether the colt has been ridden before? Aha a bit of deeper digging is required. Turns out The Jews regarded animals that had never been ridden as especially suited for holy purposes (see notes Mark 11:2).

As Jesus continues the journey riding the colt, people begin spreading their clothes on the road. The books Matthew, Mark and John mentioned palm branches being spread on the road as well. The spreading of clothes was part of an ancient practice of welcoming a new King (see notes Mark 11:8), suggesting that they recognized His claim to be King of the Jews (see 2 Kings 9:13 Jehu is anointed King of Israel). Palm branches symbolize joy and salvation and were used in other feasts, for example: The Feast of Tabernacle (see note Rev 7:9 also Lev 23:40, Neh 8:17).

Verses 37 states Jesus is “drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice” . We can’t be sure how many people were there to see Jesus but we get a good indication from historical records which record 10 years after His death that 260,000 passover lambs were slaughtered. That gives us an idea that the crowd was HUGH. Some bible scholars estimate that up to 2 million people were in and around Jerusalem during the passover season (John MacArthur).

Now I just want to pause at this point in the story to say a few things about the Mount of Olives because this place has AMAZING significance. (SHOW MAP OF JERUSALEM) You won’t believe what I found out about the Mount of Olives (which to begin with is more like a hill than a mountain).

Point out Bethany, Bethphage, Mount of Olives, the Kidron valley and Jerusalem (Temple Mount which people today will be familiar with). (see picture on page 1443 of study bible).

Of course the Mount of Olives used to be covered in olive trees but today most of the trees are gone and instead it is covered by thousands of jewish

graves. At the bottom of the mount is the Garden of Gethsemane, which is still there today.

SHOW THE RABBI HERE 2:24 to 5:39 (3 mins 15 sec long)

Isn't that amazing that Jesus ascended into heaven from the mount of olives (that is recorded in Acts 1:9-12) and He will reappear on the same mount when he returns. For in Zechariah 14 it says "Behold the day of the Lord is coming,...Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of the battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which face Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley".

**Did you know there is a major fault line that goes right through the Mount of Olives?! How amazing is that! So one day when Jesus returns he will return to the Mount of Olives and as his feet touch the ground a major earthquake will occur and break the mount in two. To think God put that fault line there way back in Genesis because He knew He'd need it in Revelation! Talk about amazing detail!**

Right back to our reading.... The crowd is calling out "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" We find the Pharisees telling Jesus to rebuke His disciples. Now Jesus knew when he started his descent into Jerusalem that allowing the crowd to worship Him would inflame the Pharisees and set in motion the events that would lead to His death. The Pharisees knew they couldn't stop the crowd, so they tried to get Jesus to stop them. However Jesus says "I tell you that if these should keep silent the stones would immediately cry out".

The last four verses relate to a prophecy (prediction) Jesus makes about Jerusalem. As Jesus nears the city he begins to weep over it because He knows they will reject Him as their Saviour and bring judgement on themselves. History shows it occurred forty years later just as Jesus prophesied. He said "your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground and they will not leave in you one stone upon another".

This is precisely the method used by the Roman General Titus when he laid siege to Jerusalem in 70AD. Actually we need to backup a bit. You see the Jews rebelled against Roman in 66AD and so began a period of time where the Romans tried regain power around Israel. It wasn't until 70AD that they set their sites on Jerusalem. They surrounded the city on the 9th April, cutting off all supplies, and trapping thousands of people who had been in Jerusalem for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Romans systematically built embankments around the city, gradually starving the city's inhabitants. The Romans held the city in this manner through the summer, defeating various sections of the city one by one. The final overthrow of the city occurred in early September. The Romans utterly demolished the city, temple, residences and people. The survivors were carried off to become victims of the Roman gladiatorial bouts or as slaves. No wonder Jesus was weeping...

What a depressing note to finish on.... But.... we're not quite finished...

I had always thought growing up that Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem was an exciting event, one I'd love to have been at. Now looking at it more closely and thinking about Jesus and not myself as one of the crowd, I see it as a very troubling event, an event filled, yes with joy, but also with hatred and sorrow.... Had I really been there that day, had we been there that day, I wonder if we would have been aware of the hatred of the Pharisees and aware of the sorrow Jesus felt.

The crowd thought Jesus was coming as King, we know this isn't true, He was coming to offer Himself up for their salvation.

But He is coming as King....

For in Revelation 19:11-16 we read:

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had<sup>[fn]</sup> a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And

the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The first time Jesus came humbly, He came in peace, He came to bring salvation, He came riding on a colt, He was treated by the people as a King about to take His Kingdom....

And if we look ahead in the scriptures we see the first thing he did on entering Jerusalem was to cleanse the temple.

Now the second time Jesus comes powerfully, He comes to make war, He comes to bring judgement, He comes riding on a white horse, He comes as a King about to take His Kingdom....

And the first thing He does is to strike (cleanse) the nations.

Amen, So be it.

Please join me....

Jesus, We enthrone You  
We proclaim You are King  
Standing here, in the midst of us  
We raise You up with our praise  
And as we worship build Your throne  
And as we worship build Your throne  
And as we worship build Your throne  
Come Lord Jesus and take Your place