

The Triumphant King

Matthew 21:1-22

3/ 20/ 05

Intro

This is the day we celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem riding in the foal of a donkey. The crowds around Him were shouting praises to God and singing the song reserved only for the Messiah.

This is a crowd that came with Jesus. They had heard that He had raised Lazarus from the dead and were convinced that He was the promised messiah.

These events are very important for us for several reasons. They completely fulfill scripture, but there are also many lessons in this story for us today.

These are lessons from the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

I. Your King Comes to You

A. Let earth receive her King

- The prophet Zechariah told them to look for their king.
- Many other prophecies made it clear that He would soon be coming. They should have known the “Day of Visitation.”
- But the King must be received.

- God wants you to choose Him as King.
- There is soon coming a day when there will be no choice.

Philippians 2:9-11, “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

B. Gentle

- It is easy to receive a king who is gentle and humble of heart.
- That is the actual meaning of the word; gentle, humble of heart.

Matthew 11:29-30, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 12:20-21, “A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. And in His name the Gentiles will hope.”

C. As the bearer of burden

- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey to fulfill scripture, yes, but also because of what it represents.

- He comes as the bearer of burdens; the greatest burden we carry is our sin.

I Peter 5:6-8, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

II. He Comes as a Champion

A. Some things must be overturned

- When Jesus came into Jerusalem, He went to the temple and saw what was happening there. He then began to overturn the tables of the moneychangers and cast out those responsible.

Illus – The scripture says that are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it also a picture of what He would do with those things that stand against God in our hearts.

I Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Hebrews 12:9-11, “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and

live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Illus – How wonderful to receive a letter from one of our children thanking us for the discipline we gave.

- Are there things in your life that God would overturn or cast out?

B. Some things must be healed

- The very next verse says that the blind and the lame came to Him and he healed them.
- Both cleansing the temple and healing their wounds is exactly what they needed.
- It shows us His heart for us in love.

Ezekiel 34:15-16, “I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,” declares the Lord God. “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick;”

Illus – He heals the wounds of our sin as well....

John 8:10-11, Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

III. Our Part is Responding

A. He expects fruit

- In the morning, as He was returning to the city, He was hungry and came upon a fig tree that had leaves, but no fruit...
- He rebuked the tree because there was no fruit.
- Jesus came to Jerusalem through Bethphage, which means, "House of figs."

Illus – Israel is compared to a basket of figs that has become rotten.

Hosea 9:10 "I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first *season*."

Jeremiah 24:7, "I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart."

B. He deserves praise

- When Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, the crowds were shouting, "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**"
- Here, the children have picked up the chant and the Jewish leaders became indignant.
- But Jesus quoted scripture to show them that this is what God had desired all along.

Illus –We were made for praising God. It completes something in our hearts that is lacking.

Psalm 34:1-3, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

C. He desires for us to live by His strength

- The disciples were focused on the fact that he made the fig tree wither, but Jesus pointed them to the importance of living by faith.
- Many people misunderstand this and think that Jesus is offering a formula for getting God to do what they want Him to do.
- **But the point of faith is not in getting God to do what we want Him to do, but rather it is having our lives in place where God wants us to be, and doing the things that God is doing.**

Habakkuk 2:4, "Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith."

Conclusion

I pray that we would also join that crowd and lift praise to God, that we would desire that the Lord cleanse our temple, and that we would know that He came to bring healing to our lives as well.