
Sermon Notes

March 29, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Hiding Our Praise

Luke 19:40

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."

The World's Applause

- ❖ It is socially acceptable to be excited and enthusiastic about many things
- ❖ It is not socially acceptable to be excited and enthusiastic about our Christian faith
- ❖ Though there are many reasons why this may be so, there is only one reason that really matters
 - ❖ 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - ❖ this is true of all eras of human history and especially apparent during the period when Christ was physically present and ministering on earth

Four Responses to the Same Event

- ❖ The crowd (Luke 19:37-38)
 - rejoicing and praising God for Jesus' miracles
 - a sense of expectation and fulfillment
 - how could these people possibly keep silent about this?
- ❖ The Pharisees (Luke 19:39)
 - satanically inspired religious leader
 - want this public display of enthusiasm for Christ "shut down"
- ❖ Jesus (Luke 19:40-44)

- ❖ Our response
 - we have more understanding, knowledge, and a much greater perspective on who Jesus is than the crowd had
 - the crowd sought a deliverance from Roman oppression
 - we worship Christ as the only One who can deliver us from the tyranny of sin and death
 - our blessings and benefits in Christ

“The Very Stones”

- ❖ What stones? Where?
 - Luke gives us a clue in v. 44
 - it seems highly likely that Jesus is staring straight ahead at the temple as he says these words about the stones crying out
- ❖ These are words of prophecy, rebuke and judgment
 - Jesus’ highly emotional response to what He must prophesy (Luke 19:41-42)
 - Jesus takes no pleasure at the thought of the future destruction that is coming on this place and these people
 - He agonizes over their superficiality, hypocrisy, and the damnation that is coming

The Point of No Return

- ❖ God is patient, kind and loving, but He does set a point at which the door of opportunity to turn to Him will be closed
- ❖ Fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy begins in 70 A. D.
- ❖ There is a point of no return faced by all who choose to obstinately, persistently reject Christ and His marvelous offer of mercy, grace, and forgiveness
- ❖ The time and opportunity is still there for unbelievers to turn to Christ
- ❖ The time and opportunity is still there for believers to turn from their timid lukewarmness and to gratefully and publicly identify with Christ and His cause
 - the time will not last forever
 - the door will not always be open
- ❖ Silence is not always golden. Truth is outraged by silence..

Personal Application

1. With which group in the Palm Sunday account are you most frequently identified? the worship driven crowd or the “worship silencing” Pharisees?
2. What is your reaction to those who are always talking about what Jesus is doing in their lives?
3. Do you believe you are in danger of “going overboard” in sharing your faith with others? How about in expressing words of praise and worship for Christ to them?