

Series: John

Title: When the King was Glorified

Text: John 12: 12-19

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John 12: 12: On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13: Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. 14: And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, 15: Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. 16: These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and *that* they had done these things unto him. 17: The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. 18: For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. 19: The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

This was the week of the Passover feast. Thousands upon thousands of people had come to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. Jerusalem swelled with far, far more people than the usual population. The streets were overflowing with people.

The Lord had raised Lazarus from the grave and the witnesses had bear record of it. This great host of people were whispering to one another—*"Do you think he will come to the feast?" (Jn 11: 56)* Then word spread through the crowd, "He is coming!" There he appeared riding on an ass' colt. Much people went forth and laid palm branches before him, crying, "*Hosanna*"—save us, deliver us—*"Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."*

Divisions: 1) The work of God 2) An example of grace 3) A personal word

THE WORK OF GOD

John 12: 23: And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified....28: Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

This was the work of God. God the Father, Son and Spirit brought this to pass at Jerusalem that day. God worked this to glorify the Son of man. He worked this to glorify God's name in the Lord Jesus.

Our Lord did not lift up his voice in the streets to make himself known. Many times when he worked a miracle he told them not to make it known. But this is his hour. This is the hour of all hours. This is the time for which the world was made. This is the time he must be glorified before all. The sin-atonement Substitute who alone fulfilled all righteousness for his people has come to town. The one who alone saves his people from our sins has come.

On purpose, the Lord Jesus waited four days till many Jews were at Lazarus' grave. Then he went to Bethany near Jerusalem and most publicly, he raised Lazarus from the dead. He did it so that those who saw might bear record so that this would come to pass—*v18: "For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle."*

They already wanted to take him and make him king. That was the natural will of their carnal hearts. He only had to take his restraining hand off. God worked this. They were doing what God determined before to be done. That is so of whatever comes to pass.

Proverbs 19:21: *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

Proverbs 16: 1: The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD.

This is the Lord fulfilling the law and the prophets as he, alone, must. By the Spirit of God, Jacob prophesied this and Moses recorded it in the law.

Genesis 49: 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. 11: Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.

This is Shiloh—the King to whom the kingdom and glory belongs. He gathers his people TO HIM. He shed his own precious blood for his people. Christ gave his life for the Life of his people. He washed his people in the wine of his blood. He breaks us like a wild ass' colt and binds us to Christ the Vine.

Daniel's prophesied of the seventy weeks. This is the sixty-ninth week Christ would be cut off "but not for himself". He was cut off for his people. (Dan 9: 24-27) Over 500 years before this, Zechariah foretold of this.

Zechariah 9: 9: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Christ sent his apostles right to where the ass and her colt was. They told the owner that the Lord has need of this donkey and her colt. The owner gave no opposition. Christ worked that in his heart. The Lord Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets entirely. These scriptures are the word of God. And Christ is the subject. And Christ fulfilled every word. Read this book looking for Christ alone.

When you read scripture concerning a sinner and one who is righteous, who are you in the passage? Our Lord told the disciples that one of them would betray him. They each said, "Lord is it I?" God's people know we are sinners so we know we are capable of sin. So we read every word of this book beholding our own selves in each sinner. And we behold Christ who is the Righteous One, our Savior when we come to one in the scripture who is faithful. That is how to read this book. Read it to behold your God and to behold your own flesh which is grass.

AN EXAMPLE OF GRACE

This great host cried, "**Hosanna**"—save us now, deliver us now—"**Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.**"

Psalms 118: 25 Save now, [Hosanna] I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26: Blessed *be* he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Without a new heart, without spiritual understanding, most only wanted earthly prosperity. They thought Christ was coming to set up an earthly kingdom and that is all they wanted. The majority that day were only looking for political deliverance from Roman rule. They heard the Lord had raised Lazarus from the dead. So this man could give them good health. He gives them prosperity in this life.

So they wanted to make him an earthly king. He merely took off his restraining hand and they did this. But by leaving his restraining hand off them, in a very short time, these very same people saw Christ permitting the rulers to take him and do many things unto him. And when he did not give them the carnal prosperity they wanted then they cried,

John 19: 15:...Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

John 18:36: Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Our King and Savior provides for his people in temporal things. But his people often are poor. He often makes us suffer many things in this life. He promised to refine his people by bringing us through the fire! But salvation is not earthly prosperity. Salvation is Christ! Salvation is Christ providing spiritual blessings by his obedience and his precious blood. The blessings he gives are righteousness, redemption from the curse of the law, spiritual life, eternal life in him—spiritual, eternal blessings.

This is where we see an example of the grace of God. John confesses that he and the other disciples, even his apostles, did not know what these things meant either. They, too, thought Christ was come to establish an earthly kingdom.

John 12: 16: These things understood not his disciples at the first:

This is so with God's people in most things. It could be written of us in most things God sends to us "*these things understood not his disciples at the first.*" For three and a half years, Christ had told them repeatedly that he must be arrested, crucified, go to the grave and rise again. He told them his kingdom was not of this earth but spiritual. But they still did not understand. Even after he appeared to them after his resurrection, when he told them to go back to Jerusalem, they said, "Are you about to restore the kingdom?"

Do you see God's grace here? All thought the same thing, even his true disciples. All looked for the same earthly kingdom, including his disciples. All were ignorant of these spiritual things, even the true disciples and apostles. But afterward, the Lord revealed the truth in the hearts of those who were his.

When did they understand?

John 12: 16...but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they these things were written"

After Christ was crucified and accomplished the redemption of his people, after he arose and came and opened the scriptures to them, by his grace, by his revelation in their new hearts—THEN remembered they these things were written. We understand spiritual things, only when the Lord Jesus is glorified in our hearts—when he glorifies himself in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

And the Lord teaches us little by little. He shines the Light a little more and a little more. He grows us in grace and knowledge of him.

He knows where each of his people are and sends his gospel—*the same as he sent his apostles right to that donkey and her colt.* Depraved sinners are like a wild ass' colt who never has been tamed. But just as our Lord tamed that colt and rode it, guiding into Jerusalem, he tames his child by his power and grace. But we still have much to be taught. Yet, he guides us the whole way into heavenly Jerusalem, teaching us here a little, there a little, bringing us through the fire, refining and growing us in grace the whole way. He binds his fold unto the choice Vine. He is the choice Vine. He gives us faith and binds his child to himself in inseparable union.

"They bowed with palm branches crying blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." So Christ our King brings his child to bow before him in spirit and in truth giving him all the glory for our eternal salvation. He makes us willingly bow to him as King of heavenly, spiritual Israel. Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ is King of his elect Israel. Christ is King in the hearts of his children. He is our SOVEREIGN SAVIOR. Therefore, none can resist him.

By his grace, he gives a new heart. He makes us willing to bow and bless his name for saving us from our sins. He makes us rejoice in grace because it is only his grace that makes the difference. Do you see that in this crowd? His true people were no different than the multitude who merely wanted the lusts of their flesh. But Christ teaches us we are saved by his grace. When he makes us see our sins—that we are exactly like the very worst, vile sinners as all the rest—then he makes us see that he chose us and saved us—he makes us rejoice in electing grace, redeeming grace, regenerating grace, preserving grace, teaching grace, resurrecting grace, glorifying grace. All is of Christ. He is our Salvation. The Lord Jesus brings us to declare salvation is of the LORD! And he keeps us following him by his guiding hand.

A PERSONAL WORD

“When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem” they went forth and bowed before him. Have we heard that the Lord Jesus is coming to Jerusalem? He has come and accomplished redemption. The very same King is coming now in the preaching of the gospel, calling his lost sheep to faith in him. One day this same King is coming again to this earth to call each of his redeemed home to glory. When he comes again he will come in judgment. But right now he is coming meek and lowly in mercy and grace. Are you bowing before him right now?

May God save us from being like the Pharisees. They saw this and wanted to kill Christ all the more.

John 12: 19: The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Did they mean every man without exception was going after him? No they meant “much people.” Christ laid down his life for his elect sheep. He is calling each one. It is much people but it is not all people without exception in the world.

But he has to bring us to bow, meek and lowly, and believe on him. He continues this work as he did in his apostles. The Lord Jesus is the successful Savior. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is written that he shall not fail nor be discouraged till he hath set judgment in the earth. His people throughout the world shall wait for his word and rejoice when he comes! Will you?

Amen!