

Luke 19:28-48

Our Prophet, Priest, and King

Intro: There is one basic discipleship lesson I've learned over the years: Following Jesus does not get any easier the longer you do it. Some things in life get easier the longer you do them. Not so with discipleship. As we get into Jerusalem, as we get closer to the cross.... it's more costly to follow Jesus. So costly that most will abandon him.

- Vs. 47-48 is our intro. It gives us insight into the tension.
- The leadership is both a spiritual failure, missing what God's doing in Jesus, and they are incredibly frustrated.

In contrast to the failed leadership of Israel, we have Christ as a faithful leader of God's people.

- Jesus is presented to us in language thick with OT meaning.
- The better you know your OT, the more clearly you will see these. *The better we know the OT, the better we know the NT.

Let's look at how Luke presents Jesus as our faithful leader. Every point calls us to follow him.

1. Following our gloriously humble king (28-38)

- Since Jerusalem is the ideal place for kings, it is fit for the King of Kings to receive a royal welcome.
- Before Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, he passes through little bedroom towns of Bethpage and Bethany—just a few miles from the city.
- He tells two of his disciples to go and grab a young donkey.
- Why? What does it represent?

It gives us two pictures:

1. Who Jesus is: The King

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

2. What's in Jesus's heart: humility

Jesus is not an ordinary king, he is a humble king.

(Phil 2:8-9)

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him.

- Next, we see what should mark his followers (v37): joy and praise

The repose is found in v37 “the whole multitude of disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice” —which the crowd quotes from Ps 118:26.

This picture shows how people should react and respond to Jesus as King

—react with joy

—react with praise

A gloriously humble king calls for a glad heart of praise. Triumph leads to praise.

That's what is in view here. It is also the test of our hearts. The music on Sunday are songs of triumph and victory in the gospel. How we sing, and our desire to sing shows what is in our hearts.

Illus: Speaking of music. I'm not a pop country music fan for the most part. But there was a popular song a few years ago *Jesus Take the Wheel*. It was so popular that I was in store and a lady had her ringtone set to it.

Even if you like the song, it's not great theology. Another example is “God is my co-pilot”. They are both bad pictures of discipleship. Everything in this text, and in the Gospel, shows a Christ who is in complete control at all times.

2. Following our brokenhearted prophet of truth (39-44)

- Pick up in v40. Many have seen this as “If you don’t praise, the rocks will”.
- There is a similar phrase of a rock crying out in Hab. 2:11.

The text in Habakkuk is set in the language of *judgment*. Either people respond to Jesus by receiving him, and praising him; or there is judgment.

The next action of Jesus shows his heart for the many who are under judgment (41ff).

- Again, in this action we see another OT picture.

In the OT, prophets will occasionally weep over hard hearts.

- The one who stands out the most is Jeremiah, who is often called the weeping prophet.
- The picture is not wiping some slightly moistened eyes, but more like full sobbing or wailing (Jer.9:1; 14:17)
- A prophet weeps when people turn their back on God.

In Jesus’ weeping, we see the very heart of God. Jesus’s heart is filled with pain when people do not have faith.

- It’s the same picture of God we see in Gen 6:6 when his heart is grieved before he sends the floods of judgment.

—But the other prophetic side of Jesus is his truth-telling.

A commitment to God’s truth is the thing that makes a prophet. A prophet proclaims the truth of God’s word, and truth about the future, even when the picture is not pretty (e.g. hard hearts, destruction of Jerusalem).

Back in Dt. 18:15, Moses foretold “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you...it is to him you shall listen.”

Apply: The key to following a prophet of truth is listening to him.

One of the main traps in life is to think that we can think for ourselves. It’s called autonomy.

Oh, we may go to the Bible for big decisions or moral clarity. But following Jesus as a prophet of truth is having his voice constantly in our heart day to day, moment by moment.

3. Following our courageously faithful priest (45-46)

- This is the final picture but also the most climatic one.
- Jesus is finally inside of the city.

Illus: If this was a movie, the music would shift to a level of intensity.

- Luke uses the temple as a highlighter; interestingly in the very last verse, we see the disciples located in the temple.

Context/background: Vv 45-46 takes place in the Gentile's court. Worshipers who were coming for Passover could buy their sacrificial animals and exchange Greek and Roman money to pay temple tax. The corrupt part is that the transactions had built in fees that would benefit the high priest's family.

Yet it's also highly symbolic that Jesus is in the temple.

The temple: It's the place to meet with God. It's the place that is very bloody; it reminds us how costly and grotesque our sin is. Our sin deserves wrath and judgment.

- And at the heart of the temple is the priesthood and atonement.
- Jesus's actions in the temple is really a charge *against the leadership*. That's why they are miffed.

The picture is clear: Israel's true & faithful priest has entered. But his priestly work and office looks worlds apart from what is familiar.

Hebrews presents Jesus's pure priesthood.

(Heb. 7:26)

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

- He is not corrupt, skimming a prophet margin from the temple.

Instead of taking for himself, Jesus gives all.

**In a few weeks when we look closely at the death of King Jesus, we will see the high point when the curtain of the temple is torn.

- What stands out about Jesus is his courage (v45). What he does creates a massive controversy. It's the proverbial nail in the coffin.
- Even though the temple is the scene, the cleansing is more of a *prophetic act*.

Actually, he is a lot like Moses, a prophetic priest.

- Jesus supports his actions by quoting (Is. 56:7 & Jer. 7:11) —one positive, one negative.
—Jesus' positive quote is Isaiah - that the temple is a place to commune with God.
—The Jeremiah quote - condemns all forms of hypocrisy and injustice.

Jesus is a courageously faithful priest

I find the language of the 1689 London Baptist Confession helpful to understand Christ's priestly work: (Christ the Mediator, Ch 8:10)

“Because we are alienated from God and *imperfect in the best of our service*, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us to God as acceptable.”

Conclusion:

My first Mother's day as a preacher in 2011, I did just what I did today. I faithfully expounded the next text. A dear godly lady who is now the with Lord said to me afterward: “I can't believe you preached a whole message and did not say a thing about mothers.” So, to honor her insight, the final application is for mothers.

The mom's here at our church are amazing. You sincerely love your husbands, children, and church. Many put in countless sacrificial hours schooling, home making and serving TRB. There are many Proverbs 31 ladies here.

**But I'm sure a few of you feel like you are hanging on by a thread...maybe with some challenging children or grown children who have no desire for Christ.

Following Jesus—especially in motherhood—does not get any easier.

Yet, mothers, what you do have is a faithful priest on your behalf.

You have a gospel reminder that the best of your service is imperfect...but if your faith is rooted in Christ, your motherhood is acceptable to God through Him.

It's helpful to not have your last thought of the day be, "what did I not do today?" But, "what has Christ done for me?"

And just a reminder to all the husbands and dads. Our wives are not just mothers. They are also daughters of the king.