



Luke 19:28-40
The Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:28 When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 And it came to pass, when He came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples,

30 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.

31 "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' "

32 So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them.

33 But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?"

34 And they said, "The Lord has need of him."

35 Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him.

36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road.

37 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,

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 called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

40 But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

One of the marks of spiritual immaturity is fickleness, and in particular the ability to change your opinion of someone or something very quickly. The spiritually mature man assesses an individual based on as broad an assessment of their personality and actions as possible, with the standard that they compare them to being God's law. The spiritually immature tend to assess an individual based on what they wanted from that person and whether they delivered it. Let me try to unpack what I mean by that.

For instance, here is the most trivial of relationships, you meet someone and they are kind to you or they say nice things about you, so you decide "that's a good person, I like him" then a week later, they say something about you that you view to be negative, in a heartbeat you change your opinion, "hrrmph, I was wrong, they aren't nice at all!" It may seem silly, but there are people out there who can go from being your friend to being a bitter enemy based on a careless statement, or perhaps the fact that they caught you in a bad mood one day. Now is that any way to make friends or end friendships once they have been made? Not at all. But the temptation to act that way can be very strong.

The other day for instance, Joy was away and I had the boys with me, and after taking them shopping I decided to take them to lunch at one of my favorite restaurants in the area. Now normally both the food and the service in this restaurant are very good. But on this particular day, they took forever even to get

around to taking my order, the boys were overtired and started to act up, and gradually my temper began to flare. I about blew my top when a couple that had come in after us actually got their food before we had even ordered. Finally when I ordered, it took forever to get the food, and then forever to get the bill. I actually caught myself spitefully thinking, "I'll never come here again" but then I reflected, hey this isn't the normal way they do things here. They have treated me very well in the past. This is a good restaurant, just not today. Now if they had always treated me that way, or almost always treated me that way. After a while I can surely say, no this really is a crummy restaurant. But once or twice?

Now, in the same way, if you had a friend, or child, or a spouse, or an elder, whose general pattern of conduct was friendly, and helpful, and caring, and biblical, would it be a good idea to decide you hated them and never wanted to seem them again because that day, they totally failed to live up to your expectations? No.

That would be bad policy, especially because more than occasionally, the problem wasn't their behavior, the problem was your expectations. "Honey, does this outfit look nice on me?" (expected answer – why of course!) But he's thinking, *"Oh no, I know what I'm supposed to say, but she's going to go out in that, and I love her too much to let that happen"* He's going to get in trouble, but not because he did the wrong thing.

Now as we read the final chapters of Luke we are going to reluctantly witness the most horrid example of fickleness because of a failure to meet wrong expectations that ever occurred. We are going to see shouts of "Hosana" and "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" change to shouts of "Crucify, Crucify Him!" in less than week.

If we look at the context of these verses we will see why.

It is almost the Passover week, and Jesus is finally drawing near to Jerusalem with his disciples, which doesn't surprise us – after all we know why he is going there, that it is His stated purpose to go there to die on the cross for our sins – but his coming to Jerusalem surprised a lot of people at the time. I mean by now, Jesus is so unpopular with the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees, the Saducees, and the High Priests, that they are beginning to work together to get rid of him. So we read in John 11:55-57

John 11:55 And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves.

56 Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think -- that He will not come to the feast?"

57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.

But they needn't have worried, they aren't going to have to go looking for Jesus, He is coming to them. Because He isn't working to their timetable, He is working according to His Father's time-table. And the time has come for the Son of Man to be delivered into the hands of the gentiles.

As he comes near to one of the small towns on the slopes of the mount of Olives about 2 miles from Jerusalem, he sends two of his disciples to fetch a young Donkey. Now there has been a lot of speculation as to whether Jesus knew the owners of this donkey, whether they were his friends and followers, even if he had arranged to use it on an earlier trip to the city. What do I think? I think we

can tell the owners of the Donkey were known to Christ and were his followers, that is why they know who the disciples are talking about when they say "***Because the Lord has need of it.***" But no matter how you cut it, the event comes down to another display of Christ's omniscience, his knowledge of all things. **He knew without seeing, that the donkey would still be tied up, he knew that the disciples would be asked why they were taking it, and he knew the answer would satisfy the owners.**

Why did he need the donkey anyway, Jesus had walked everywhere, was he suddenly tired of walking? No, that wasn't it. By doing this he was fulfilling the Messianic prophecy of Zec. 9:9 "***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.***"

Up until now, Jesus has been very circumspect about his identity as Messiah, telling people, tell no one, and so on. Now he is deliberately drawing attention to himself as the Messiah. The time has come for the King to be revealed to His people. So he fulfills the prophecy in Zec. about the entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem. The veil is being drawn aside. Jesus is doing this both so that the attention of all men will be focused on Him when he does what he came to earth to do, and also to provoke the conflict with the leadership that will result in his death.

It's worth noting that this is a Donkey that has never been used before, as such it is set aside for the Lord's sacred use. You'll notice that Jesus used many things that had never been used before, Mary's womb, this Donkey, and eventually the Tomb.

The people pick up on the meaning of the entry immediately and they are ecstatic, the King is Coming, the true king, the anointed king! They have been excited to hear about the miracles of Jesus, if he can raise men from the dead, and restore eyesight to the blind, getting rid of Herod and the Romans should be a doddle! So they spread their clothes before Him and cut down palm branches. Jesus is getting the 1st century version of the Royal Red Carpet treatment.

But they aren't seeing that he comes in riding not a war horse at the head of an army preparing for war, he comes in lowly, as the prince of peace seated on a humble donkey. The expectations of the crowd are already out of whack with what Jesus has come to do. He has not come to do what they want most. He won't even be doing any more of the miracles that they were so eager to see.

The Pharisees meanwhile see this display and are horrified, probably for two reasons. One, they hate this man, they are appalled that the people are calling him king and messiah, and two they are probably fearful that this demonstration will be interpreted as an insurrection by the Romans and that the fall out will be bad for them as well. But they know that right now he is too popular for them to tell the crowd to shut-up themselves, so they demand that HE shut the crowd up.

Jesus replies with a proverb, "***I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.***" In other words, I am the Messiah, the Father has declared that now is the time for that to be proclaimed, and heaven and earth cannot stop what the Father has decreed from happening. Even if you could shut-up the people, the very rocks would obey his command.

Jesus is coming to accomplish what he and the other members of the Godhead agreed to in the covenant of redemption even before the creation of the world. How can you silence this? Nothing can stop The good shepherd from giving His life for the sheep.

Well let me give you two applications:

1) Kids, what does Jesus ride into Jerusalem on? *A Donkey*. Was it his Donkey? Did he buy it? *No*. It was somebody else's Donkey wasn't it? Now when his disciples went to get it, the people who owned it asked "Why are you taking the Donkey" and what did the disciples answer? They said ***"Because the Lord has need of Him."***

Now kids, let me ask you? How many of you own a Donkey? None? Well does that mean that you don't have anything that Jesus needs? No

What are these? *Hands*. Do you have hands? Does the Lord have need of them? Does he need people to use their hands for him?

What is this? *A Mouth... etc.*

2) Now we saw how fickle people can be, how their impression of Christ radically changed

We can be all fired up when we first meet Christ but for all the wrong reasons and then when he doesn't **"meet our expectations"** we can change our opinion.

Many become followers of Christ because they expect him to take away their problems... Not the Romans, but our ill health, etc.

They'll say Hosana, but then...

What did Christ come to do though?

"it is no evidence that religious affections are of a spiritual and gracious nature, because they are great. ... Here was a vast multitude crying Hosanna on this occasion, so that it gave occasion to the Pharisees to say, " Behold, the world has gone after him, " John 12:19 , but Christ had at that time but few true disciples. And how quickly was this ado at an end! All of this nature is quelled and dead, when this Jesus stands bound, with a mock robe and a crown of thorns, to be derided, spit upon, scourged, condemned and executed. Indeed, there was a great and loud outcry concerning him among the multitude then, as well as before; but of a very different kind: it is not then, Hosanna, hosanna, but Crucify, crucify. ...it is the concurring voice of all orthodox divines, that there may be religious affections, which are raised to a very high degree, and yet there be nothing of true religion" - EDWARDS

Peace with God, Peace with Man...