

## Jesus' misunderstood entrance

Read Luke 19:28-40

Over the last few weeks, we have been working through a series called “What’s mine, is His”. We have been looking at the principle of stewardship, or more commonly known to us as management. We have looked at ways to manage everything that “is ours”? The biblical definition of stewardship is “having dominion over the works of God.” God has given us the ability to manage different aspects of life. The definition of stewardship can be broken down into four components or, the Four Ts of Stewardship. We have gone through the first 3, which are time, talent, and treasure (money/stuff). And this morning, we are going to look at the last T, which is temple, or better known to us as “the church”. Like all things, our example on how to manage comes from Jesus himself. Today is a special day because today is Palm Sunday, the triumphal entry of Jesus. Now you might be sitting there thinking, but how does the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday show us how to manage the church? Let’s walk together and see what God has to say.

It was almost 2000 years ago when Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a King. This event is one of only eleven events in Jesus’s life that is recorded in all 4 gospels. The reason why this event is recorded in all 4 Gospels is because of its importance. The time has come for our Lord to finish his great work on earth. As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he went there with the intention of fulfilling his purpose. He now determines to enter his capital city of Jerusalem openly, and there to reveal himself as King.

Verse 28

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

What a beautiful spectacle to see Jesus marching in front of the crowd and his followers eagerly following on behind. They were going up to Jerusalem, where He would receive honor but also, where he would be betrayed in to the hands of cruel men and put to a shameful death. But, still Jesus went on ahead. As a shepherd goes before the sheep, not driving but leading. It was far better that he should go first instead of the rest, for a disciple is never more out of place than when he outruns his master. A friend of mine gave me the following example because he was wrestling with this himself and he told me that it has taken him a long time to accept. See, before Jesus entered your life, you were driving the car of your life and all of us kept Jesus in the trunk almost like a spare tire. We pull him out when we need Him or have a crisis happening but otherwise, we tell Him to stay in the trunk. But we must understand that Jesus is the one who needs to be driving the car and we need to be in the back seat. But while in the back seat, we cannot shout directions or try to “backseat drive” and tell Jesus what to do. We need to come to a place in our faith that we see Jesus driving the car and we are resting in the back seat. Might I implore you this morning, stop driving the car of your life and let Jesus drive the car. He knows what turns to take, you don’t. Be rest assured that whatever suffering you experience or will experience, Christ has gone that way before you. Never think that Jesus doesn’t understand what you are experiencing. He has been humiliated, he has been tortured and beaten, he was slandered, he was put to death in the most horrid of ways. Jesus has gone through more suffering than all of us. 1 Peter 2:21 “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” Jesus has been the forerunner. Jesus has gone

before us and here we see Jesus going before his disciples and the multitude, leading the way, being the Good Shepherd.

Verses 28-31

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’”

Scholars has found over 1000 prophecies in the OT about the coming Messiah and the best part is, Jesus fulfilled every single one. But what makes this prophecy different is that Jesus goes out of his way to fulfill this particular prophecy. Jesus, in his humanity, didn't do anything extraordinary when He came as a baby, born of a virgin in the city of Bethlehem as the prophet Micah tells us in Micah 5:2. “<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” Jesus' birth took place through God's providence and Caesar Augustus' decree to take a census for purposes of taxation. But here in Luke 19, we see Jesus taking matters into his own hands concerning prophecy. Jesus knew the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 “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.” Here again we see the continuity of the OT and NT. Jesus knew the text. Jesus knew the prophecy. And so, he goes out of his way to make sure the details and specifics of this prophecy are fulfilled, just as Scripture said it would hundreds of years earlier.

But this event is unique in the fact that kings usually rode into the city on royal horses, majestic steeds, not the colt of a donkey. But Jesus was different. Riding into town on the colt of a donkey showed everyone and symbolized the meekness and lowliness of heart to all. Jesus was humble. Jesus was meek, and don't confused meek with weak. They are two different words with two different meanings. To be meek is to be patient, long-suffering, reverent while weak means feeble, frail, scrawny. Does that sound like a good representation of Jesus? Feeble? Frail? Of course not. Jesus wasn't like Solomon who summoned horses out of Egypt to stroke his pride and draw more attention to himself. But rather, Jesus, who is greater than Solomon, was content with a colt, and even that humble creature was borrowed, because Jesus didn't own one. And then the tenderness of Jesus to not only bring the colt, but as Matthew puts it, to also bring its mother too, so that mother donkey and child donkey wouldn't be separated. Jesus is King, King of ALL and reigns with gentleness and mercy.

Verse 32-35

<sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

Two disciples, and we are not told which two, fetch the colt for Jesus because Jesus has a need for it and the owners of the colt, at this moment do not. The owners ask the disciples as they are untying it, “what are you doing?” To which the disciples respond with the exact words that Jesus

told them to use. “The Lord has need of it”. Ok. Be our guest, if the Lord has need of it, take it to him.

We can look at the disciples and, also those that gave up the colt, and we should be willing to be either one. We should, at a moments notice, follow Jesus when He commands and do what He tells us to do. We need to rely on Christ’s Word, and cling to it as offering greater security than all the securities in the world. If you feel the Spirit nudging you or telling you to do something, you have two options, and only two options, obey or disobey. Anything other than swift obedience to the call of Jesus is disobedience. Imagine you told your child to go to bed. Then your child starts questioning and rationalizing what you said. “Dad told me to go bed, but really means that I am tired, and he doesn’t want me to be tired. I can overcome my tiredness just the same if I go out and play. So, what my dad is really telling me is “go out and play”. If a child actually did this to his father, he would be met with a language the child would understand, that being punishment. But how many of us do that with God. “God told me to serve in my church but really means that I shouldn’t sit on my couch as much as I do. So, what God is really telling me is to stop sitting on my couch.” No, that is not what God said. Just like going outside to play is not sinful, sitting on your couch is not sinful, but where it becomes sinful and downright disobedient is when we take what God has told us and we twist it to our own will. Are we to treat the commands of Jesus differently than if that command came from our parents? The moment you stand there pondering and questioning God, you are disobeying. You if stand there and try to reason it out with God, you are disobeying. If you twist what God has said to your will, you are disobeying. To stand questioning is not for the disciples of our King; it is our duty to obey our Lord’s orders, and to fear nothing. When Jesus told those two disciples where to find the colt and how to go about acquiring the colt, Scripture says, they went away and found it just as he had told them. This should be an accurate description of the conduct of all Christians: so those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. They did not question or criticize their King’s command; they obeyed them. But also, we need to be willing to give anything that we have in the service of Jesus and His will. Many will give up their time, talents or treasures when their neck is not on the line. But the mark of a true disciple is to stretch out your own neck and put yourself at risk for the sake of Jesus. Whenever we have anything of which the Lord’s cause has need, how cheerfully should we hand it over to him! We need to realize that when the Lord sends us on an errand, he will speed us on our way. Here is the point, Jesus didn’t save you so that you could go to church, have a pleasant experience and then go home and that’s it. Christians were not meant to sit, soak and sour. We were saved for a purpose and that purpose is sharing the Gospel with as many people as we can. We were saved to be a participant and not a spectator. We are all responsible for doing what we can, using our time, talents and treasures, to help grow Jesus’ church. The disciples understood that. The disciples not only retrieved the colt, but also were willing the put their own coats on the colt and on the street to honor Jesus.

Verse 36

<sup>36</sup>And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road.

Along with spreading their coats, we know from the other Gospels that the multitude waved and placed on the path Palm branches. The significance of the Palm branch was after a military conquest or victory, the returning warriors would be greeted by the city and Palm branches would be waved and placed in the road as a symbol of victory. Here Jesus is, riding into Jerusalem and the people are waving Palm branches and placing their coats in the street for Jesus to ride over, clearly showing and revealing to everyone in the city that they thought Jesus was

coming to claim victory over the Romans and be crowned ‘King of the Jews’. Spreading clothes where a person sat or walked was a way to honor special people. They threw their coats in front of Jesus because they wanted to. It was done by their own volition. Many people are ready to fetch someone else’s donkey, but they are slow to lend their own coat. These disciples were willing and eager to show where their allegiance truly was.

One thing you need to know about me is that I don’t believe in coincidence, or fate or luck or chance and I truly believe that any Christian that believes in God faithfully, cannot believe in those things as well because once you do, you have now made God, not a sovereign God, which by definition, is not possible. God must be sovereign or else He isn’t God. My point of all that it is no coincidence that, if you think back to our first parents, Adam and Eve, in their shame after the fall, they made clothes made of the leaves of the trees, before God gave them animal skins to wear; but now both clothes and leaves are at the feet of man’s Redeemer. Jesus Christ overcomes our shame. Jesus conquers sin and death. It is a beautiful picture of Jesus making things right.

And now, the prophecy has been fulfilled. The Messiah riding into Jerusalem on the back of a colt. The people knew this prophecy and understood what Jesus was doing. They saw Jesus as their Messiah for this brief moment in time. However, in just a few short days, they will realize that Jesus is not the Messiah that people had in mind. That is why Jesus’ entrance was misunderstood. They wanted someone to ride into town and drive the Romans out. But Jesus identified with God’s Messiah, not the people’s idea of what the Messiah should be. Jesus was the Messiah who had come in lowliness, meekness and humility. Not surprisingly, the same people who cheered for Him as He rode into Jerusalem, screamed for His blood by shouting “Crucify him, Crucify him” just a few days later after Jesus failed to give them what they wanted. But it wasn’t about what they wanted. It was about what God wants and it is still that way today. It’s not about what we want, it’s about what God wants.

Verse 37-38

<sup>37</sup>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,”<sup>38</sup>saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Not only the 12 disciples were walking with Jesus, but there were crowds from when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. There were crowds from when Jesus left Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. There were crowds that followed from Zacchaeus’ house because Jesus had just stayed with Zacchaeus and there Jesus taught in parables. Multitudes of people followed Jesus. And Scripture says that the multitude began to rejoice and praise God.

By the way, what event was coming up in less than a week? Passover. Passover was a solemn obligation for every Jew to return to Jerusalem in order to observe Passover the correct way. So not only were multitudes of people following Jesus because of the miracles He was performing, but also there were multitudes coming to Jerusalem to observe Passover. Scholars estimate that there were roughly 2 million Jews present in Jerusalem at this time.

Try and picture this in your mind. Jesus, on the back on a colt, riding into Jerusalem with people waving palm branches, placing their coats on the ground in front of Jesus and shouting “Hosanna!” Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” What a sight to behold. Jesus was clothed with a divine authority and commissioned from heaven for this purpose.

Hosanna actually means in Hebrew “save, now”. This phrasing was not an accident. This phrase, which every Jew knew was a Messianic prophecy, comes directly<sup>2236</sup> from Psalm 118:19-26

- “<sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.  
<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.  
<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
<sup>25</sup>Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us success!  
<sup>26</sup>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Here again, we see that the people looked to Jesus for salvation, but only in a military sense. They thought their bondage was from the Romans, which indeed it was, but they had forgotten about the bondage of sin and didn't understand that Jesus was saving them from sin, not the Romans. They were not thinking that the Messiah would come and take away the sin of the world but that only the Jews would benefit from the Messiah. But God had other plans.

Verse 39-40

<sup>39</sup>And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup>He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”  
I love this answer from Jesus. There were Pharisees among the crowd, watching, lurking in the shadows and instead of joining the praises of the people to God, they became enraged at this event. Because Jesus is the ultimate example of humility, they thought that Jesus would never let such praises and rejoicing come upon him. So, the Pharisees said to Jesus, rebuke them. Jesus, your disciples are dumber than a box of rocks? We have that expression don't we, that someone could be dumber than a box of rocks. But how dumb is a box of rocks? Jesus knew the answer to that question and when we see Jesus in His divine nature, Jesus made the rocks. John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” They were HIS rocks. They were HIS stones. The whole creation was lying in wait, for what was about to happen, that Christ and Christ alone could do. Jesus was not

just the King of the Jews. He was not just the Savior of the Jews, but Jesus is the King of the Cosmos. Ruler of all. Even the stones, recognized their King. “I tell you, if these disciples were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Stones that have no lips. Stones that have no tongues or mouths would cry out “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” This is our King, creator of all. So how dumb is a box of rocks? I don’t know, but a box of rocks was smarter than the Pharisees were. The rocks crying out, in effect, was literally fulfilled, when, upon man’s condemnation of Jesus Christ upon the cross, instead of man praising him, and with his own disciples sinking into a profound silence, the earth did quake, and the rocks did cry out.

The Pharisees also wanted Jesus to rebuke his disciples because if Jesus doesn’t rebuke them, it would be an admission and a confession that Jesus agrees with them that He is the Messiah and rightful King. This admission in the eyes of the Pharisees was punishable by death for blasphemy. But it is the honor of Jesus Christ that, as he despises the contempt of the proud (the Pharisees), so he accepts the praises of the humble.

But if there is one thing the passage makes clear, it is that the people’s interest in Jesus was based largely on curiosity and false expectations that would be dashed to pieces in no time. Jesus was God’s chosen King, and He had come to Jerusalem to fulfill a mission unlike what anyone, even those closest to Him, could ever envision. That is why to mankind, Jesus’ entrance on Palm Sunday was vastly misunderstood at the time. How soon this gleam of sunlight and rejoicing would give way to the black darkness. The palms and rejoicing were closely followed by the day of crucifixion. Jesus came to Jerusalem knowing that He would suffer and be crucified in a matter of days, but HE STILL CAME. And if Jesus can do that for us, how dare we run and hide from any service that we are capable of doing, for Him?

Jesus didn’t come to give an instruction manual.

Jesus didn’t come to be your life coach.

Jesus didn’t come to be an inspiration.

Jesus didn’t come to be a martyr.

Jesus didn’t come to be a glowing example.

Jesus came to do, FOR US, in Himself and by Himself, what we can never do for ourselves or by ourselves. That is the Good News of the Gospel!

Jesus came to earth from his seat in heaven to deal with OUR sin. He came to die in our place so that we may live. It is the sinless one taking the place of the sinful.

How does the triumphal entry show us how to manage the church? Because Jesus DIED for the church. He fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah, accomplished exactly what He came here to accomplish, and reconciled the church back to God. So how does this event show us how to manage the church? Simple, what are you doing to help care for Jesus’s church? And what makes up the church, the people. What are you doing to help care for the people that belong to Jesus Christ? Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood.**” Jesus bought and paid for His people with his blood and then put us as managers of His church to accomplish all that Jesus has set it to accomplish. How dare we stand in the way. So again I ask you, what are you doing to help care for Jesus’ church?

Pray