

# The King of Peace

Իսաղաղութեան Թագաւորը

Sermon series: Watch and Pray

## Luke 19:28-44

The Sunday school teacher asked the kids: “Why did Jesus choose to ride on a donkey and not a horse to enter Jerusalem?” There was silence in the room, then a boy raised his hand and said, “So that the disciples and the people could follow him.”

An interesting answer. I can understand how this little kid was thinking.

We find a big difference between “kings” who enter on a horse and “kings” who enter on a donkey. Like King Solomon who entered on a donkey, Jesus declares that the King of Peace is parading.

He is also fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah about this victorious entrance:

**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.**

(Zechariah 9:9-10 ESV)

Our journey with Jesus started during the Lent season. We are in the Gospel according to Luke. We covered chapters 21-23, the series of events that took place after Jesus’ victorious entrance to Jerusalem. So today we go back to that event.

Let us read our text:

**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.’” <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.” (Luke 19: 28-34 ESV)**

## 1. God Orchestrated this Entrance

There is a major contrast between a Roman warrior's entrance, and Jesus' entrance. There is a detailed description about what to do before the parade. The location (**near Bethphage and Bethany**) is two miles on east of Jerusalem. Jesus gives instruction to two disciples to find the colt that no one has ever used. (It reminds me of Jesus' burial in a brand-new tomb). "The owner will give you the colt", he says.

There is detailed description about where to go, what to do, and what to say to the owner of the donkey. Luke does not say how Jesus knew about all this.

Then, all of them are going up to Jerusalem, to the Holy City, for the Passover meal. We see one more time, how God knew, and **orchestrated the divine plan**, and Jesus fulfilled this plan.

## 2. Peace in Heaven and Peace on Earth

**<sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <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!" (Luke 19:35-38 ESV)**

Beautiful imagery, people throwing their cloaks under the feet of Jesus. They are rejoicing, worshiping God, and expressing their allegiance to Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, this is not the entrance of Zorro or John Wayne on a horse. This is the victorious ride of King of Peace on a colt. Very different from other rides.

Today kids were singing Hosanna (Save us).

In that parade, people were singing and reciting from the Psalms. (Luke does not use the word Hosanna, but the concept is there).

**<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. (Psalm 118:25,26 ESV)**

-Let us examine the statement:

**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38 ESV)**

This statement reminds me of Like chapter 2:

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”** (Luke 2:14 ESV)

-When Jesus was born, the angels, the heavenly multitude, declared God’s glory and **Peace on earth...**

-In the parade, the **earthly multitude**, the disciples, and the followers of Jesus, declared God’s glory and **Peace in heaven...**

-Why in heaven?

Because as we see, peace on earth is not a reality at the present. In fact, in the next paragraph, Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because peace is hidden from the eyes of Jerusalem.

So do we have peace on earth?

**Peace on earth** can be a reality is only through Jesus Christ, the king of peace in an unpeaceful world..

-**Peace**, oh how much we all need this.

God’s peace (*shalom, salam*) is not the absence of war. God’s peace is a **reconciled relationship** with him. The peace of God **reconciles us** with Him and each other. And this can happen only through Jesus Christ. Only this kind of peace, heavenly peace can bring justice to humanity.

I pray that you experience this peace in your life. Whatever outside circumstances you are facing, God can grant you the peace of Jesus in your life!

### **3. Silence those People, Jesus**

**<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.”** (Luke 19:39-40 ESV)

How sad is it when Pharisees do not recognize who Jesus is. They were anxious about this parade; they were threatened by the messianic parade, and they did not like it.

-“From Jesus’ point of view, this is why there is such a celebration in the first place: it is appropriate precisely because he is coming to bring God’s salvation, God’s great Exodus, through his own Passover action on the cross.”<sup>1</sup>

-From the Pharisees’ viewpoint this should stop;

Jesus’ answer is so strong. **“The very stones would cry out.”**

-You cannot stop me; you cannot stop the work of God. You cannot stop sharing the Good News of salvation.

-God can use any means to spread the Good News. God can even make dead stones talk. There is nothing impossible with God. **“What is impossible with man is possible with God.”** (Luke 18:27 ESV). The Angel said this too during Christmas time to Mary: **“For nothing will be impossible with God.”** (Luke 1:37 ESV)

- In the Bible there are many stones that become monument. (those monuments say something about God).

-For example, the stone called Bethel that Jacob erected (Gen 28:18-22). Every time people looked at that stone, “the stone” would tell the story of God; **“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it”** (Gen. 28:16).

-**Gilgal (Circle of Stones)** Joshua and his people crossing the Jordan River; (Joshua 4:1-3; 19-24)

**<sup>20</sup> And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. <sup>21</sup> And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>22</sup> then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’** (Josh 4:20-22 ESV)

Nothing will stop God from revealing His message, nothing. Stones can talk; nature can talk:

**Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. <sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. <sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.** (Psalm 96:11-13 NIV)

[I sang this song often in Armenian language based on Isaiah](#)

**and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12) and you will go out with joy.**

Speaking of judgment

#### **4-Tears of Jesus**

**<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> 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 <sup>44</sup> 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.**" (Luke 19:41-44 ESV)**

We spoke about the silence of Jesus.

We see the tears of Jesus here, tears of sadness that people rejected the message of God, tears of sadness that they did not recognize the Messiah.

Maybe tears knowing his own disciples will abandon him, and one of them will betray and other will deny... the tears of Jesus.

MSG translation:

**"If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it's too late. In the days ahead your enemies are going to bring up their heavy artillery and surround you, pressing in from every side. They'll smash you and your babies on the pavement. Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn't recognize and welcome God's personal visit."**

In fact, Jerusalem fell in 70 AD.

Looking to the world, the tragedy of rejecting Jesus continues.

Until now the world does not recognize who Jesus is; until now all over the world faces turmoil and not peace. Why?

They did not know the time of the Lord's visitation.

You missed the train...

I don't want to miss my Lord's visitation.

### **Application:**

**His visitation either will be of salvation or judgment.**

Jesus, the king of peace, entering the city; don't miss the visitation... please don't.

### **No Jesus, No peace. Know Jesus, Know peace.**

In the Gospel according to Mark, Jesus was healing a boy, and the father had questions about it. Jesus answered:

**"...All things are possible for one who believes."** (Mark (9:23 ESV)

I would like to finish with Psalm 24

**Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!**

**<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! *Selah***

1. N. T. Wright. *Luke for Everyone* P 230