

Sunday 10-April-22 [Palm Sunday]**Blessed is He who comes****Psalm 118:22-29**

²² The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

²³ the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day;

let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ Lord, save us!

Lord, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

²⁷ The Lord is God,

and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

Luke 19:28-44

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," He replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said,

“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Sermon: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord

It would be good to have your **Bibles opened at Luke chapter 19** – starting at verse 28.

There's a **sermon outline** – if you want to take notes.

Let me **ask God's for His guidance and understanding**

Let's pray...

Context

Before we look at the events of that 1st Palm Sunday about 2000 years ago – let's get the **context**:

- Jesus has **been teaching** the most **amazing things**
- He has performed the most **amazing miracles**
- He's **explained** to His disciples **who He is** (Luke 9:20)
- He's even **told** His **disciples** that He is **going to die and be raised on the third day** (Luke 9:22) – but they **don't fully understand it** and were **afraid to ask Him about it**. (Luke 9:45)
- And since chapter 9 of Luke (v51) – Jesus has **set His face towards Jerusalem** – even though He knows He's **going to His death**
- And Jesus has **warned His disciples and the people He's healed** – **not to reveal who He is and what He's done** (Matt 8:4; 16:20; 17:9; Mark 8:30; 9:9 and Luke 9:21) – He doesn't want to go public just yet
- But the **people are getting excited about Jesus** – not only has He **performed these amazing miracles** – but He's **taught like no else ever did** – and He's even stood up to the religious leaders
- Then just before our passage this morning – in John's gospel – we read that Jesus has even raised His friend Lazarus from the dead after being dead for 4 days – this happened - just down the road from Jerusalem - in a place called **Bethany!**

- So **many** of the **people** have **followed Jesus** from Bethany – where Lazarus lived – and they've **followed Him into Jerusalem**
- And **Jerusalem is packed to the rafters** for the festival of **Passover** [[explain Passover](#)]
- So, it's like the **Easter Show on steroids**
- As Jesus rides into Jerusalem on that 1st Palm Sunday
- The **crowd** are **thinking** – **Jesus really is the Messiah** – He really is the **one God promised** – He's the **King they've been waiting for** - and they're thinking He's **going to finally make His move** – and **take control of Israel** – and **get rid of the Romans**
- The **atmosphere** is **palpable!**

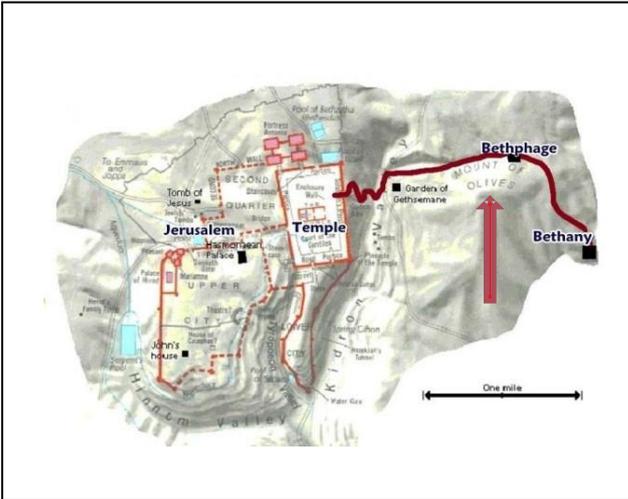
This morning we'll look at **3 points**:

1. The **preparation** of King Jesus (vv28-34)
2. The **proclamation** of King Jesus (vv35-40)
3. The **passion** of King Jesus (vv41-44)

[The Preparation of King Jesus \(Luke 19:28-34\)](#)

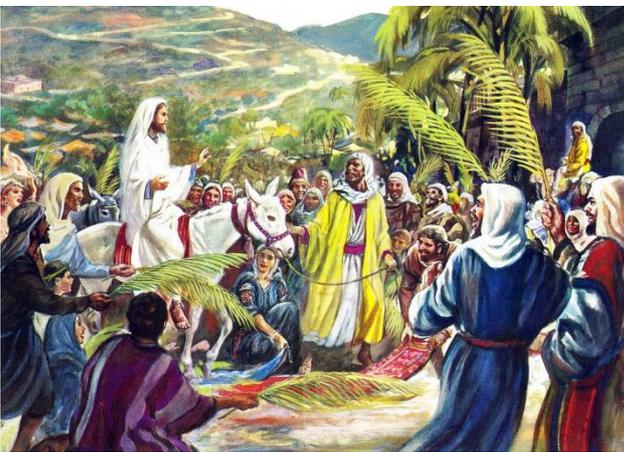
- First then the **preparation** of King Jesus
- Starting at verses 28 and 29
- Jesus is **heading towards Jerusalem** – He approaches **Bethpage & Bethany**

[\[PowerPoint 1-Map\]](#)



- **At the Mount of Olives** (arrow) – Jesus **prepares** for **His entry** into Jerusalem – see v30 & v31
- Jesus **sends two** of His **disciples** into the village ahead to **find a colt of a donkey**, which **no one has ever ridden** – and they are to bring the donkey to Jesus – because **He has a need of it**
- **Jesus will ride into Jerusalem** on this donkey

[PowerPoint 2-Rode on a donkey]

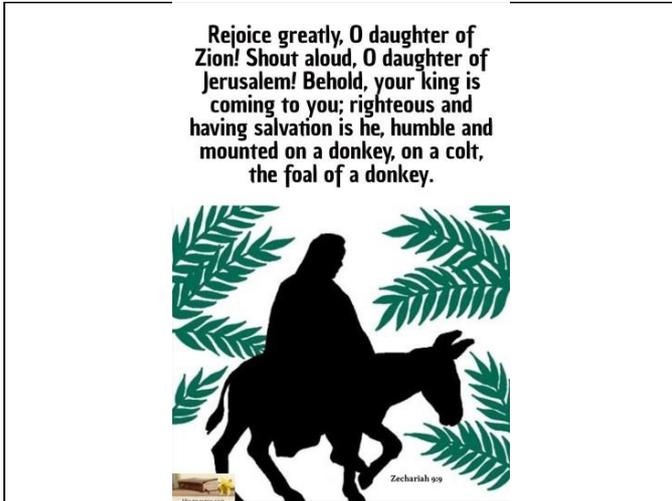


- This **might seem like a simple thing** – but the use of the **donkey** is very **significant** for a number of reasons
 - The donkey is a **sign of Jesus coming in peace** – rather than riding in on a horse – He comes into Jerusalem on a **peaceful donkey**
 - He doesn't come in as a **military king** who will **defeat the Romans** and kick them out – He's **come for a difference reason**

- **No one** in the crowd and perhaps no one in Israel – has fully **understood Jesus’ mission** – Jesus **hasn’t** come to wage war with the Romans occupying Israel – He’s come to wage war on Satan and on sin and death – His is a **spiritual war** – **not** a **physical war**
 - The **donkey** is also a **symbol of humility** – and so it shows Jesus is a **humble servant like King** – remember how Jesus said in Matthew 11:29 – *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*
 - The fact that the **donkey had never been ridden** is also significant – it shows that the **donkey** has been **set apart for sacred use** – for **God’s use** – and so anything to be used by God – shouldn’t have been **used for anything else first!**
 - The fact the **donkey had never been ridden** – also shows that **Jesus requires undivided loyalty** – the **donkey was dedicated to Jesus alone** – and that’s what Jesus expects of us!
- Jesus has **prepared everything down to the last detail**
 - See v32 – when the two disciples go to find the donkey – **everything is just as Jesus said** – even when the owners of the donkey ask the disciples why they are untying the donkey – **their reply “the Lord needs it”** – is enough for the owners to release the donkey
 - What we are meant to see is that **Jesus has every detail covered** – even what the owners will say to the disciples
 - But the **preparation goes further than that**

- It has to be a colt of a donkey because 500 years earlier a prophet named Zechariah had said in Zechariah 9:9:

[PowerPoint 3-Zech 9:9]



Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion [mountain in Jerusalem]

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

*See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

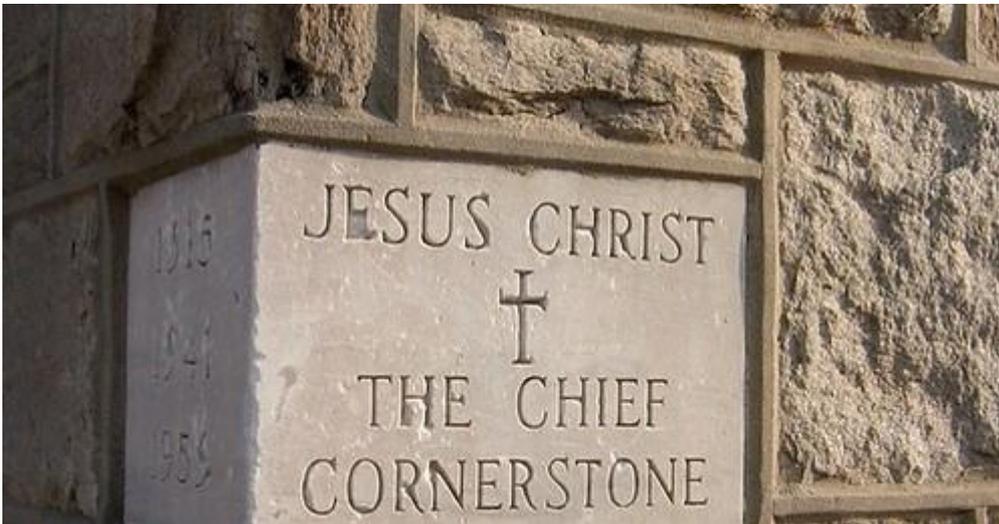
- As Jesus rides into Jerusalem on that donkey, He fulfils this prophecy.
- Also, **Jesus has to ride into Jerusalem on the feast of Passover – because He has to die at Passover – because He is the fulfilment of the sacrificial Passover Lamb – Just like the blood of the lamb on that first Passover back in Egypt was smeared on the Israelites' door frames and that blood saved people from dying as the angel of death passed over their homes – likewise Jesus blood poured out on the cross – will cause the punishment for our sins – which is death – **to pass over us** –**

and instead we go unpunished – and we **receive forgiveness for our sins** – and we **receive eternal life** and **never really die** [if we care to believe in Jesus!]

- So, it's **no coincidence** **Jesus rides into Jerusalem at Passover** – **He's planned** and **prepared to go public at this time**

[PowerPoint 4-Cornerstone]

- And as He rides in – there's **another prophecy He fulfils** – from our OT reading – **Psalm 118 – verse 22**
- Which reads – *the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone*



- Jesus is the stone that the builders reject - Jesus will be rejected by the religious leaders and most of the people of Israel – but what they don't realize is Jesus is the **cornerstone** of something very important –
- Jesus is like a **Spiritual Temple** – he's the **foundational cornerstone** of that **Spiritual Temple** – and we are like **living stones attached to Jesus' Spiritual temple - and joined to Him – the cornerstone**
- Unfortunately, most of the people in Jerusalem that day – didn't understand this – so they reject Him

- Even today – many still reject Jesus – but Jesus is the foundation people need to **build their lives on**
- So, **King Jesus' preparation for this day** - has been **meticulously planned throughout scripture** – culminating in this special day - Palm Sunday – when He finally makes His move
- **Application** - Jesus plans and prepares perfectly. Let's **make sure Jesus is always in our plans and preparations**. As **Proverbs 16:3** says: **commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans**

The Proclamation of King Jesus (Luke 19:35-40)

- Which brings us to our second point – the **proclamation of King Jesus**

[PowerPoint 5-King Jesus Palm Sunday]



- That's in verses 35 to 40
- See v35 – the disciples put Jesus on the donkey
- And v36 – He rides into Jerusalem – where **people spread their cloaks on the road**

- The cloaks on the ground are **proclaiming Jesus' majesty and royalty** as a King; just like people did - 800 years earlier - when **King Jehu** rode into the city as King - back in 2 Kings 9:13
- From the other Gospels: Matthew 21:8 says they cut down branches and spread them on the road; Mark 11:8 says cloaks and branches; and John 12:13 says palm branches (hence Palm Sunday)
- The point is – just like we'd roll out a red carpet if the Queen came to St. David's – **the people roll out their equivalent to a red carpet** which is palm branches - **to proclaim King Jesus**
- **They are so excited and joyful** – see v37 – **they praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they've seen Jesus do**
- The **crowd** – v38 - even sing from part of **Psalm 118** – our OT reading – from Psalm 118 verse 26 – the crowd sing **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”**
- **Psalm 118** is from a group of Psalms called the **Hallel Psalms** (Psalm 113 to 118) – Hallel means **praise** (where we get Hallelujah from – which means God be praised)
- In Matthew's version of the Palm Sunday story; the crowd say **“Hosanna, to the Son of David”** (in Matthew 21:9).
- As well as an expression of adoration, praise and joy; Hosanna means “save us or rescue us or help us”. The crowd believed this was “it” – when **Jesus would finally take control and cast out the Roman rulers!**
- And by using the term **“Son of David”** the crowd have correctly identified – **Jesus is God's anointed and promised Messiah; who scriptures said would come from the family line of King David.**

- So, the crowd are **proclaiming Jesus as God’s promised Messiah and God’s King** – who is the one who is going to “save” them. They just have the wrong idea of what “save” means at this point!
- And the use of palms on that 1st Palm Sunday is significant because it points to a future Palm Sunday in **Revelation chapter 7:9-10** – it’s a **Palm Sunday on steroids**
- Here's how John the Apostle describes it

*⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were **holding palm branches in their hands**. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb [which is Jesus].”*

- Back to that 1st Palm Sunday
- Not everyone is prepared to proclaim Jesus as King and Messiah –
- The religious leaders – the **Pharisees** – in v39 – **tell Jesus to rebuke His disciples for proclaiming He is King!**
- But **Jesus is not having a bar of it** – and He says – if the people keep quiet – then **the stones will cry out** – and proclaim Him as King
- Jesus’ point is this is the **DAY** that He **WILL** be praised
- **Jesus is confirming His identity as King and Messiah now and He’s gone public.**
- He’s doing exactly what the Father planned and willed for Him; and **He’s going to the cross**. No one is going to silence the crowd; and if they did; **Jesus has such power and authority over all things** (including creation – because He was there at creation) – **He has such power and authority** - that the **stones will speak on His behalf if necessary!**

- There's **no stopping Jesus' public statement** about who He is!
- So here we have 2 groups of people
 - The **crowd** - that **proclaim** Jesus as King
 - And - the **Pharisees** who **refuse to proclaim** Jesus as King
- Application: Jesus the King demands allegiance and demands us to make a decision to follow Him before it's too late.
- King Jesus **deserves to be worshipped properly** – He is the King of Kings!
- Application: And Jesus wants us to follow Him – even if we don't fully understand everything – we need to **walk by faith not by what we see.**

The Passion of King Jesus (Luke 19:41-44)

- Which brings us to our third point – the **passion** of King Jesus
- That's in verses 41 to 44

[PowerPoint 6-Weeping]

Luke 19:41-42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known this day what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from your eyes."

- See verse 41 – as Jesus approaches Jerusalem coming down the side of the Mount of Olives – He's got a **birds-eye view of** the great city of **Jerusalem** – but He **weeps over the city!**

- The Greek word for weep – means weeping as the sign of pain and grief and also it means weeping as people do when they mourn the dead
- At that moment - as Jesus looks at the city of Jerusalem – He looks into the future and sees what’s going to happen to this great city in 40 years’ time – and He grieves what lies ahead for the city and the people
- As Jesus looks forward – He sees **an event in AD70** when the Roman army commanded by Titus [later emperor] – built an embankment around Jerusalem – surrounded Jerusalem and shut in the whole city – and **completely destroyed the city.**
- It’s a **picture of judgment** – for rejecting Jesus – God’s Messiah
- You see – as Jesus rides into Jerusalem – **being proclaimed as King**
- He also knows what’s coming in less than a week’s time
- **The cries of *Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord* – will turn to cries of *Crucify Him! Crucify Him!***
- And **Jesus will be rejected**
- So, Jesus laments in v42 - **If you, [Jerusalem] even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**
- He’s **not only** lamenting what will happen to Jerusalem in 70AD – He’s lamenting **how He will be rejected by the people of Jerusalem** in less than a week’s time
- Jesus’ point is - by rejecting Him – **people miss out on peace**
- But it’s a **different sort of peace** – Jesus brings peace with God – and peace from God – As He says in John 14:27 - **peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives...**
- Application: We all need that peace from God – because it means we are reconciled to God through Jesus – and it means we do not need to fear God’s

wrath and anger over our sins – and instead **we have the peace of knowing we are forgiven and have eternal life**

- Application: But I'd like to leave us with a **final thought**. Jesus weeps because people have missed out on the peace of God by rejecting Him – what about us? Do we have that same passion for people as Jesus has? Do we weep over people who don't know Jesus or have rejected Him? We may weep over our loved ones who don't know Jesus – **but Jesus wept for all who are lost from God!**
- The American evangelist D.L. Moody [1837 to 1899] told the story of how he became a Christian – He says: “When I was in Boston, I used to attend a Sunday school class, and one day I recollect my Sunday School teacher came around behind the counter of the shop I was working in, and put his hand upon my shoulder, and talked to me about Jesus and my soul. I had not felt that I had a soul until then. I said to myself, ‘This is a very strange thing. Here is a man who never saw me until recently, and he is weeping over my sins, and I have never even shed a tear about them.’ But I understand it now, and know what it is to have a passion for a person’s soul and weep over their sins. I don’t remember what he said, but I can still feel the power of that man’s hand on my shoulder to this day.”

The concern and tears of that godly Sunday school teacher resulted in the conversion of a DL Moody who saw a million souls saved in his evangelistic campaigns.

Are we weeping for all those **who don't know Jesus?** Do we have compassion for those lost from God? Do we weep for them? Surely, we should?

[Perhaps you'd like to attend Evangelism meeting after morning tea!]

Let's pray...

Father God, thank you that You sent Jesus to this Earth – to go to the Cross!

King Jesus – thank you – that you are our King – the Servant King – the one who laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven – the one who was raised on the third day – so we can have eternal life.

Help us to give you the worship and allegiance you deserve.

Help us to look at our community as you looked at Jerusalem – and weep for those who are lost from God.

Help us to share the Good News – that you have come to save us from sin and death.

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Amen.