

***The Two Great Realities***  
***That Are Revealed in Jesus' Final Week***  
**(Easter 2016, Pt.01)**  
***Luke 19:29-40***

Luke 19:29-40

- 29 And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,
- 30 Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.
- 31 And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him.
- 32 And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.
- 33 And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?
- 34 And they said, The Lord hath need of him.
- 35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.
- 36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.
- 37 And when he was come nigh, even now at 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 that they had seen;
- 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.
- 39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.
- 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. KJV

**Introduction:**

This Sunday and next are regarded by the religious world as important days that we have set aside to commemorate in a special way the Great Work that Jesus Christ did on the cross to redeem His people. Special days like this may have their place but I fear that for many people they distort reality for them. There are many people whose only appearance in church through the year is Easter Sunday and many of them feel that they have done a marvelous and glorious thing of honoring God and the Savior by honoring this special day on the calendar.

But the true believer celebrates Easter every day and sometimes several times within the day as he remembers the sacrifice of Christ and His Glorious Resurrection, relying upon that Work and the Person Who did the Work as his sole and only hope of having a right standing with God. He thanks God again for the mercy and the love which motivated Christ as well as the Grace by which he was called to repentance and faith. For the more serious minded of God's servants these days are a sort of a struggle because so many who care very little about the realities of the Work of Christ throughout the year suddenly show up expecting to be entertained in some way by the faithful and hardworking servants of God who labor every week to make sure that the

church doors are open. True believers have a difficult time understanding these Once-A-Year Christians who come with their expectations to see an extravaganza laid out for them. At the same time they are happy to have them present in a church service where the gospel is being preached and truly hope that the realities of the events commemorated will motivate those who come to truly give themselves to the Lord in the genuine worship for which He calls, daily and sacrificial labor for His kingdom.

That being said, here we are on the day known as Palm Sunday, the commemoration of that wonderful entry that Jesus had into the city of Jerusalem just a few days before His trial and crucifixion. We shall undertake to deal with some of the realities of that day in ways that will be of spiritual use to you.

My father often made that observation that no doubt many of these people who welcomed Jesus on Sunday of that week were among those who called for His crucifixion and the release of Barabbas just a few days later. This has always perplexed my mind and I have frequently given thought to this seemingly absurd behavior on the part of the residents of Jerusalem. There are two elements to this, I believe: God had ordained that Jesus be honored in this way and the people were of mixed motives concerning their attendance at the event and even the things that they were doing and saying.

**I. First of all, we cannot minimize the reality that here was One Who was worthy of all the honor of earth and heaven.**

It is almost impossible, I believe, for most humans to recognize in this picture that we see in our minds when the scriptures concerning this event are read, that here was the Creator, the Second Person of the Divine Trinity, the Word become flesh, and He is entering the city of Jerusalem, seemingly a mere man and riding on a young donkey.

The donkey was indeed an important part of the picture, so much so that Jesus had chosen the one He wanted to ride and sent His disciples into the village to get that specific animal. We might also conjecture, I think, without stretching too far, that Jesus had awakened the mind of the owner of the donkey and brought him to repentance and faith. That has always seemed to me to be the explanation for the fact that when the disciples told the owner, 'the master has need of him,' that the man was quite content to let his animal be led away and used.

The reason that He used a donkey was that this had been ordered and arranged from all eternity past and had been revealed already and written down in scripture.

Zech 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. NKJV

Understand that this was revealed to the prophet because God had ordained it, this same God that was actually riding the donkey. Jesus was not forced to do it because the prophet had said it but the prophet had given those words because they were given to him by the One Who had chosen for this to be the way that He would enter Jerusalem on this day.

Not only that but the Trinity had determined that He would be honored on this day and in this way, by cries of worship being lifted up before Him and by men and women honoring Him, treating Him as a conqueror returning home from His conquests.

Luke 19:37-38

- 37 And when he was come nigh, even now at 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 that they had seen;
- 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. KJV

We know that this was ordained by God because of what Jesus said to those who objected to Him being praised in this way.

Luke 19:39-40

- 39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.
- 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. KJV

So, why had God Almighty ordained that on this day and in this place, the Lord Jesus Christ was to be honored and praised as “the King that cometh in the name of the Lord”?

There are two reasons, I believe, the Magnificence of His Person coupled with the Magnificence of the Work that He was about to do.

Please understand and try to grasp the picture concretely in your mind, This Person Who was riding on this little donkey, on this particular day, was the very same person Whom Isaiah saw sitting on a throne, “high and lifted up,” from Whom even the Great Angels, the Seraphim, hid their eyes lest they be blinded with His Glory.

He is the Very Same One Who will one day be seen as John described Him in Rev. 19.

Rev 19:11-16

- 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
- 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
- 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

- 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
- 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
- 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. KJV

But it is almost impossible for men to make this connection and even if they do it is difficult for them to honor Him. In fact, they cannot do it properly but by the work and leadership of God's Holy Spirit.

So, the first thing that we can see in this picture of the Glorious Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is the Splendor and Brilliance of His Being.

**II. But, if we turn the camera of our mind around and look at the people rather than the Savior, we are struck by the sinfulness of man.**

If you think about it, they were about of the same mix that many churches will see on Easter Sunday.

**A. There were some, a small percentage of the group, that were there out of true devotion to Christ.**

We think of the Twelve but, of course, one of them was a traitor and would soon show his true colors.

John mentioned the fact that many in the multitude were closely aware of the resurrection of Lazarus which had just recently occurred.

John 12:17-18

- 17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.
- 18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. KJV

Since Bethany, the home of Lazarus, was very nearby we can imagine that Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were present and we know that they believed completely on the Lord Jesus Christ.

No doubt the blind man that Jesus had healed and the lame man from the Pool of Siloam as well as many others who had received healing from Him would have been present, many of them being genuine believers.

I can even think that old Bartimaeus whose sight had been restored in Jesus' last trip to Jericho might have heard of Jesus coming to Jerusalem and had made the trip. Jericho was not that far away.

So, there was a group of real Christians, true believers, saintly souls in the crowd and their cries of worship and praise would have come from hearts truly given to Christ.

But I am convinced that if the majority of these people had been true believers that the crowd before Pilate's judgment seat would have been a very different group of people.

**B. Some were there, the scriptures indicate, to see the next miracles that He would do.**

Humans like a spectacle, a show, something impressive to see. P. T. Barnum made a fortune by playing to this particular quality of human nature.

I have no doubt but that when the commotion began and people began to ask what was going on they became excited that Jesus was coming to town because they had heard of all of the things that He had already done, especially the raising of Lazarus and the healing of those two men near the temple that we already mentioned.

It is sad to think and even sadder to realize that many churches this week will also be playing to the desires of carnal people to see a show.

Jesus was, indeed, going to demonstrate His power one more time in the very seat of both Jewish and Roman power in the region.

Matt 21:10-14

- 10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?
- 11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.
- 12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,
- 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.
- 14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. KJV

But, here is the thing. Jesus did not do all of this as a show or a display to get people together, thinking that to have a whole lot of carnal minded people assembled in or near a religious facility was a good thing. He did what He did because He is Holy and Gracious and for no other reason.

Likewise, those who gather for religious services should do so for no other motivation than to adore and worship our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Although the right words came out of many mouths, we know for a fact that they were not received or acknowledged as worship because they were not spoken in faith.

**C. Some were there because they thought that He was going to be the next King and that they were going to be a part of something great.**

Embedded within those thoughts, no doubt, was the hopes that they themselves could somehow see their lives improved, their fortunes raised, their businesses prosper in new ways and maybe even see their family's property restored that had been dispensed in the original conquest of the land all those many years ago.

They were a people tired of being oppressed, of paying outrageous taxes to foreign powers and of having pagans and foreigners ruling over them. But in all of these legitimate hopes that were tied up in their dreams of the Messiah, there was only selfishness, what could they get for themselves?

So much of modern religions runs on that exact notion, trying to give people what they want rather than what they need. Jesus had come to provide for them what they needed; redemption, repentance, and eternal life, but they saw no need for redemption, had no intention of repenting of their sins and thought they already had eternal life because they were religious.

That which offers heaven without holiness and eternal life without submission to the Reveled Will of God has always been popular and will continue to be. No doubt the realization that Jesus was not offering what they wanted and expected led some of these to cry for His crucifixion later that week.

**D. Then, for sure, there were those that just tagged along because they had nothing better to do.**

We are sure that there were curiosity seekers and people merely looking to relieve their boredom in the audience. Some of them may have become caught up in the excitement of the crowd because people are like that, are they not? When we are in a crowd and many of the people start cheering or booing, we are tempted to be drawn in with them. That is how we are wired up.

Sometimes that is not a bad thing. It is not a sin, for example, to get caught up in the excitement at a ball game or some spectacular public event, so long as we do not do sinful things. But it is an enormous blasphemy to pretend to worship God just because some other people got excited. I don't know if you have ever experienced it but it is very easy to get caught up in the emotions of others, especially when the event is deliberately orchestrated to create an emotional response.

Many people in our world think that his is worship but it is the furthest thing from worship. Worship only truly occurs when the heart and the mind have become overwhelmed with the realities of God's Work of Redemption and have yielded themselves without resistance to respond in faith and repentance. Everything else is a sham and God has no positive regard for anything that is a pretence.

**E. There were certainly some who were there to criticize and critique what Jesus was doing.**

Go back to the passage in Matthew that we just looked at.

Matt 21:15

15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, KJV

Can you imagine? Here He was healing the sick and speaking to the people words consistent with their scriptures and giving explanations of a higher quality than their best rabbins... and “they were sore displeased.” Another translation says, “they were indignant.”

We are fully aware that even in the midst of the pageantry of Easter, as many souls look in true faith toward the Wonderful Work that Jesus did to redeem them, the Church in general will be surrounded by people who are ‘sore displeased.’

There are people in our country who live in a state, I believe, of quivering hatred for all things Christian, even things that do not really matter. They would shut down every church, burn every Bible, and erase the memory of the existence of Jesus Christ from the world if they could. Sadly, some of our children have been affected by them and are doomed unless God grants grace.

**F. Then, there were those who were forced to be there.**

Children were dragged along by parents, wives by husbands, and maybe even some husbands coerced by their children or their wives to come and see Christ. Certainly their presence gave Him no glory but even beyond themselves they were forced to look on the Savior, think about Him, remember His face and the humility of His bearing. That week would be etched into the memory of every resident of Jerusalem for the rest of their lives.

I have no doubt that there were some, if not many, who were basically forced to be present that day who ultimately were converted and cherished forever the memory of being pressured to come and see Him that day.

When I was a child there was no option but to be at church. Many times I did not want to be there, I was too tired, or I had something else that I wanted to do. For example, I was an adult before I ever saw ‘The Wizard of Oz’ because the only time it came on TV was on Easter Sunday night, as I recall, and I was always in church. I remember seeing it start many times but never, as a child, got to watch it all the way through.

But today I am really glad that I was required to go to church with my parents. In spite of myself I learned many things about God’s Word that I still remember and use today. Along the way God spoke to my heart and granted me faith and I am so thankful for that.

All I ever got out of the Wizard of Oz was a couple of hours of entertainment, but what I got from being forced to go to church was eternal life and the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord.

**III. So, regardless of why you are here today or why you will be in church next Sunday,**

**I pray that God grants you a true understanding of why we celebrate this day.**

Your ancestor, the first man, Adam, sinned against God and plunged himself into spiritual death and the condemnation of God. As a result, all of his children, including you were born spiritually dead and condemned as well. As soon as you could make decisions for yourself you began to make selfish and sinful choices that proved that you were indeed the son, or daughter, of Adam.

Jesus Christ, that man riding the donkey into Jerusalem in our scripture text, was coming to Jerusalem to accept to His Person all of the sins of all of the people who would ever believe on Him and died in their place on the cross.

His message was and is that those who hear this word and believe it will turn from their sins and believe on Him as their Savior.

So, regardless of why you originally came today, will you believe on Him and be saved?