

BRILLIANCE ARRIVING

This series is called the Cost of Grace - the point here for us as West Londoners, preparing our hearts for Easter, is to recognize that the grace that saved us, the grace that continues to save us, and the grace that will save us costs God a great deal.

- The incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas reminds us that God left the comfort of heaven to come in to a sinful world and dwell among sinful people who wouldn't give him the honour he deserved or received among the angels.
- Last week we looked at a specific scene in the life of Jesus, the transfiguration and as we unpacked that incredible scene we noted the cost Jesus was willing to pay to extend grace to us... he descended the mountain to fulfil his mission.
- Today I want us to look at another scene in the life of Jesus, and it being Palm Sunday, the scene I would like us to look at the Triumphal Entry when Jesus enters Jerusalem.

The Triumphal Entry

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

There are four observations about this story that I want to focus on this morning:

1. The Humility of Jesus

- When I picture a King, or a conqueror, triumphantly entering a city of significance I picture him arriving on a black stallion... OR a white stallion (depending on his hero/villain alignment) that is decked out with armour, maybe holding a banner...
- Jesus enters on a donkey... he enters with his group of poor disciples.

- Marks gospel records this:
“Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” Mark 11:2-3
- Colossians 1 tells us that through Jesus all things were created, it also tells us that he sustains all things... he created the colt and the owners of the colt... without Jesus actively sustaining and holding together the molecules that make up the colt or its owners they would cease to exist! AND YET – Jesus, in humility, assures them that the colt will be returned once he’s finished with them
- Through Jesus every stallion and every beast under heaven was created... he could have rode in on a dragon if he chose to... but the son of God humbly rode in to Jerusalem as its redeeming King on a donkeys colt.
- Interestingly he wasn’t even entering the city with a real place to stay!
- **What can we learn from this?**
 - o Our position, our entitlement is not an excuse for pride.

2. The Divine Significance

- There is a particular thing recorded in Luke’s gospel that is unique:
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, 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 in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19:37-40
- What a phrase!
- Inanimate, lifeless objects of creation would have cried out to the saviour of the universe arriving in Jerusalem to fulfil his mission had the crowd not recognized the cosmic significance of this event!
- The Pharisaic rule was done, Jesus would no longer silence the truth... if the Romans came they came, it was time!
- **What can we learn from this?**
 - o *Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:13-16*
 - o *The most important thing about us, is how we respond to Jesus, and how we respond to the question, “who do you say that he is?”*

3. The Recognition from the Crowd

4. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”
5. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.” John 12: 13, 18-19

- “Hosanna”, in its Jewish form means “God saves” or more specifically is a cry to God asking him to “please save” the one crying out. In fact it is a prayer or a cry that can only be directed at Jehovah.
- The crowd is recognizing that Jesus is the messiah... the one they have been waiting for... God become man to come and save his people.
- **What can we learn from this?**
 - o Do not let your hearts be fickle.
 - o This response is an incredible one... but where were these adorers days Later when Jesus was arrested and crucified?
 - o Did they scatter like the disciples? Did they deny Jesus as peter did? Were they among the crowd screaming “crucify him!”

The Most Brilliant Moment:

The book of Revelation pictures the final fulfillment of Palm Sunday in the age to come like this:

I looked and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9,10)

The entry into Jerusalem with waving palms was a short-lived preview of the eternal Palm Sunday to come. It needed to be said. If the disciples hadn't said it the rocks would have.

Had Jesus taken his throne on that first day of palms, none of us would ever be redeemed or waving palms of praise in the age to come.

- **There had to be the cross. There had to be a COST.**

Luke 9:22,44 "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised." ... "Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men."

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

- The triumphant entry was the proper celebration for the king of the universe arriving to take his throne, but Jesus chose to suffer the cross first, so that we could all be there to celebrate when he takes his throne in the age to come.