

Morning Sermon October 19, 2014

Luke 19:28-44

“Spreading Clothes on the Road”

I have preached on Jesus’ entry into to Jerusalem many times. I have spoken about fulfilled prophecy, about Jesus’ humble sovereignty, about the meaning of the word Hosanna and in various ways about Jesus as our King. Today, I will focus mostly on one verse in this passage -

³⁶ **And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. (Luke 19:36 NKJ)**

And as He was going, they were spreading their garments in the road. (Luke 19:36 NAS)

I. The Greek verb translated “spreading” represents a continuous action –

1. It must have been the MOST EXCITING DAY of their LIVES!

A. They knew the prophecy –

“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. (Zechariah 9:9 NKJ)

This was their Messiah / He was a miracle worker / They heard about the raising of Lazarus – John 12:9

B. Their praising of Jesus was near ANGELIC; compare –

³⁷ **Then, as He was now drawing near 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 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!” (Luke 19:37-38 NKJ)**

To

¹³ **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:13-14 NKJ)**

2. I imagine them running, moving quickly, placing their clothing under the donkey’s feet --- not one hoof would touch soil!

II. Their action of spreading clothes symbolized:

1. An honor worthy of a king –

5th Century BC – Agamemnon, Greek king – words of his wife-

“Now my beloved, step down from your chariot, and let not your foot, my lord, touch the Earth. Servants, let there be spread before the house he never expected to see, where Justice leads him in, a crimson path.”

Agamemnon, knowing that only gods walk on such luxury, responds with trepidation: “I am a mortal, a man; I cannot trample upon these tinted splendors without fear thrown in my path.”

Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, “Jehu is king!” (2 Kings 9:13 NKJ)

2. Respect for a certain path, action or direction –

A. King Jehu’s respected path –

A1. An anointed path -

And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, “Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead. ² “Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room. ³ “Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, “Thus says the LORD: “I have anointed you king over Israel.” Then open the door and flee, and do not delay.” (2 Kings 9:1-3 NKJ)

Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel. (2 Kings 9:6 NKJ)

A2. A violent path against great sinners -

“You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. ⁸ “For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free. ⁹ “So I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. ¹⁰ “The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.” And he opened the door and fled.

A3. Not a path of peace –

¹⁸ **So the horseman went to meet him, and said, “Thus says the king: “Is it peace?”” And Jehu said, “What have you to do with peace? Turn**

around and follow me." So the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger went to them, but is not coming back." ¹⁹ Then he sent out a second horseman who came to them, and said, "Thus says the king: `Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me." (2Kings 9:18-19 NKJ)

²² Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?" (2Kings 9:22 NKJ)

³⁰ Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window.

³¹ Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" ³² And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. ³³ Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot. (2Kings 9:30-33 NKJ)

¹³ Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!" (2 Kings 9:13 NKJ)

*B. Other paths were respected for similar reasons -
The Maccabee brothers had led Israel in the retaking of Jerusalem, after Antiochus IV, an evil Greek General / King had taken Jerusalem and offered a pig on the altar in the Temple. The action of the Maccabee brothers was consider a fulfillment of the second half of Daniel 11:32 -"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (Daniel 11:32 NKJ)*

C. These paths were respected by the people of Jesus' day, they seem to expect that Jesus, like Jehu vs. Jorum and Jezebel or like the Maccabees against Antiochus IV -

The other Gospel accounts add to Luke's picture of joy. John 12:13 tells us, "They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Blessed is the King of Israel!'" The palm branches represented their nationalistic desire to be delivered, for the palm had been the symbol on the coin of the second Maccabean revolt. "Hosanna" was an anticipatory cry that literally meant "Save" or "Save us" or perhaps "Lord, save him," similar to "God save the

Queen." The people viewed Jesus as their deliverer. And indeed he was. But not in the way they thought. R. Kent Hughes

3. *A whole-hearted willingness to lay down (not only clothing) but your very life, in service of the King's path, purpose and Kingdom –*
 - A. *Providential Rev. Ed Gross spoke on Matthew 4, Jesus calls and disciples follow / Note Jehu did something very similar – 1 kings 9:18-19*
 - B. *Another similar thing seems to be happening in Luke 19, crowds come, lay down their clothing in front of His donkey, then they would get behind Him and follow Him!*

III. A Path Misunderstood –

1. *They did not recognize Jesus' peace –*
 - ⁴¹ *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,*
 - ⁴² *saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. (Luke 19:41-42 NKJ)*
2. *They were not ready to embrace His cross –*
 - ³³ *But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:33-34 NKJ)*
3. *Most stubbornly stuck to a path Jesus had to condemn –*
 - ⁴³ *"For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,*
 - ⁴⁴ *"and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:43-44 NKJ)*

IV. Application –

- *Expect a cross not a crown on earth*
- *Realize right carrying of the cross is beyond our human powers, seek and pray for the help of God's Holy Spirit*
- *Rejoice, in the fact, we have salvation through Christ's cross, as our own works always fall short - Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10-28.*

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