

Scripture Reading:

Luke 19:18 “28 When [Jesus] had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 And it came to pass, when He came near to Beth-phage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. 31 And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' " 32 So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. 33 But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of him." 35 Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. 36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. 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!" 39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." 40 But [Jesus] answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

"Jesus Enters Jerusalem"

We come this week to the arrival of Jesus at Jerusalem: An event that brings all four Gospel writers together in amazing detail. This has been one of those weeks where the preparation of the message has been a much greater blessing for your pastor than I fear I will ever be able to communicate in a brief message... but I will do my best! Part of this is the timing of working on a Psalm Sunday message while we are preparing the music and messages for the Advent season. Another part relates to some discussion this week on how we are to study & apply God's Word seeing Bible not a text book that we "learn" but as the living Word of God:

- We must learn to meditate on the details and at the same time make sure that we see the BIG picture of what God is doing.

Such is the case with our text from Luke this morning and I hope I can help us to see both the details and the big picture!

It is not often that the four Gospel writers all present the same events and I think we should take note when they do!

- The four Gospels unite in presenting the baptism of Jesus, the feeding of the five thousand and now the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

In all four accounts we have Jesus riding a donkey into the city with the disciples and crowds crying Hosanna

- **It is very clear that Jesus is now proclaiming Himself to be the Messiah of Israel publically!**

He comes riding into Jerusalem on a donkey accepting the praise of the people as “the King of Israel,” with cries of “Hosanna to the Son of David,” and “blessed is the Kingdom of our father David,” Or “Hosanna in the highest,” and “blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.”

- **Jesus, who had often told people not to proclaim who He was and kept to the quiet corners of Israel, now enters the holy city openly and boldly as the King!**

His appointed time has come indeed!

Even the donkey was part of this presentation: Though it might seem strange in the age of Hollywood! But not if we think Biblically: Judges 5:9 “My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless Jehovah! 10 "Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road.”

In chapter ten of Judges we have this told about one of the obscure Judges:

“3 After him arose Jah-Er, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years. 4 Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns....”

And lest we think this is something strange from the time of the Judges we see King David present his son Solomon as the new king in this way:

I Kings 1:33 “The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. 34 There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.”

- **The Gospel writers have come together to show King Jesus riding into Jerusalem at His appointed time to be the suffering Messiah!**

While these writers continue to give us different views of even this final week, now they are focused tightly on the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

- **God’s great plan of salvation is to be carrying out. The plan that was established before the world began...**
- **The plan announced to Adam & Eve as God told the serpent that the seed of the woman would crush his head.**

Here in Jerusalem, most likely on that same mountain, we will see the fulfillment of the promise that Abraham proclaimed to his son when Isaac asked, “where is the lamb for the ascension offering?” Abraham said, God will provide HIMSELF for a sacrifice, and now Jesus, the Son of God, the 2nd person of the Trinity, the Word made flesh, is entering Jerusalem to present Himself as THE sacrifice for the sins of God’s people.

- We should remember the cry of Blind Bartimeus and some in the crowds today yelling, Son of David, who was the Messiah promised to King David
- And finally, we must remember that Jesus is the rock cut without hands that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream which Daniel said would break the kingdoms of this world into pieces and establish a Kingdom that would fill the earth:
- The leaders of Israel and Rome, the iron and the clay in the feet of that great statue, did ALL they could to stop this Messiah, but when Jesus is raised in glory on that first Easter morning...
They are crushed!

So there is the BIG picture that we must remember as we consider this passage this morning!

There are also important details in Luke’s “orderly account” because of his focus on Jesus being in & coming to Jerusalem because that is where Jesus was to be the sacrifice for sin!

- It is Luke that tells of Jesus coming to the Temple as a baby, where Simeon holds Him and prays
- It is Luke that has Jesus arrive back at the Temple in Jerusalem as a young man of 12
- It is Luke that mentions the Temple in Jerusalem during the temptations of Jesus
- It is Luke who gives us the details of what was discussed on the Mount of Transfiguration: Luke 6:30 “And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

It was Luke who chronicled this last journey into Jerusalem which began in chapter nine verse fifty-one:

- “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”

We were reminded of this twice in chapter 13, where in verse 22 we read, “And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.”

And again in verse 33, “Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, & the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.”

In Luke 18:31 Jesus explains to the disciples what must happen when He arrives at Jerusalem:

“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.”

- The appointed time for Jesus to enter Jerusalem had come!

The religious leaders were VERY upset that Jesus was riding in as King and accepting the praise of the people:

The crowds at this point were very large, made up of those who had traveled with Jesus, those who witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus and those who had come to Jerusalem for the feasts.

The religious leaders demand that Jesus make these people stop: And Jesus says, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Some think this refers to the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70 when there will be no stone left, but I think Jesus means exactly what He says: Especially since He said the stones would IMMEDIATELY cry out! The rocks themselves would cry “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

- These religious leaders had much more ‘head knowledge’ than those who were crying out... But it did them NO good.

We are back to the very beginning of John the Baptist’s ministry where he confronted these hardened leaders in much the same way: Matthew 3:7: “But when [John] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”

- Why were the stones ready to cry out on this day? Because this was the appointed day for the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah!
- Just as God had said!
- When God sent His people off to Babylon, He told them they would be there for seventy years!

As the 70 years came to an end, Daniel knew the end was near and we find his great prayer in Chapter nine of the Book of Daniel.

How did Daniel know it was time?

- **Because God had said it would be seventy years, and Daniel knew when they had come and when they would return!**

Today's hardened religious leaders, they call themselves the "higher critics of Scriptures" get tied up in all kinds of knots when they try to figure out the exact dates from secular calendars and history: Whenever someone says it is these dates, there is some new old tablet discovered that cast some new doubt:

- **BUT what they forget is that Daniel would have known!**
- **He knew exactly what year they were sent into captivity and he could count to seventy!**

When God answers his prayers, He gives Daniel much more than he had requested, which God loves to do!

- **God confirmed that His people were going to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.**

They would do so by a decree from King Cyrus and then God said that there would be seventy WEEKS of years from that decree until the coming of Messiah! [490 years] These same 'expert' higher critics really have a field day trying to figure out who King Cyrus was and what year they came back!

- **It is not surprising that we can be a little confused after twenty five hundred years...
But the people back then were keeping track!**
- **This is why everyone, including the religious leaders were expecting the Messiah**
- **This is why Simeon knew that he was holding the promised Messiah in his arms**

I don't think they would have understood all the details that Daniel gives anymore than we do today, but they did understand the big picture and it had been about seventy weeks of years, 490 years since the decree of Cyrus!

- **The more important point is that Jesus knew the exact time because He is now being revealed fully as the Son of God**

Jesus knew Zaacheaus' name, He could read the thoughts of His disciples and the religious leaders, He knew where the two disciples would find the colt for Him to ride:

- **And Jesus KNEW this was His appointed day to ride into Jerusalem!**

We are Saints in the Church of Christ because Jesus obeyed the Father and rode in that day.

We will see next week that Jesus goes on to weep over the city and we know that in just a few days, He will be praying in agony in the very garden He is riding down through this day.

- **Jesus suffered and served for the joy that was set before Him!**

We see the BIG picture of God saving His people from their sins, and we see the small details carried out, from the young colt to the appointment of this specific day.

- **What we need to understand is that this is how we are to live our Christian lives!**
- **God moves and we obey!**

We believe with Simeon: We must believe that God knows what He is doing and is ready and able to accomplish His plans, just as he did!

AND we obey with Simeon: We must be ready to obey God's simple commands, just as Simeon came by the Spirit of God into the temple on that day when Jesus was presented!

- **If we don't remember the big picture, we will lose our way!**
- **If we don't obey God's commands then we may play a role more like Judas than Simeon as God works out His plans with or without us!**
- **The entry into Jerusalem by Jesus is a glorious entrance, beginning the week that is at the center of all of human history!**

To help us understand what this means for us today, I want to turn to the Book of Titus, where the Apostle Paul begins with this grand statement about THE BIG picture:

Titus 1:1 "Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior"

- **Paul goes on to instruct Titus about how to appoint qualified leaders for the Church and warns him about heretics.**
- **When he then turns to what should be taught, we see the very practical steps of obedience for our lives... Those details!**

Titus 2:1 "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine..."

- **Remember how I said the Bible is not a text book... please note that 100% on a test is NOT what Paul says should result from teaching good doctrine!**

2 "that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;"

- Men, are we prepared this week to have our every action evaluated by these six words... Sober... reverent... temperate... faithful... loving... patient?

3 “the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- **4** that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

- Ladies are you ready to teach our young women THESE things?

-- Love your husband & children

-- Be discreet and chaste

-- To be good homemakers & obedient to their husbands

- Do we believe that NOT doing so is blasphemous?

6 “Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, **7** in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, **8** sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

- Young men, are you prepared to be sober minded rather than sowing wild oats?

- Are you ready to show a pattern of good works in ALL things: Not just when your elders or parents make you be good?

- Are you prepared to defend the faith with integrity & reverence so you are not corrupted by the world?

- Are you ready to have ALL of your speech, including electronic speech, to be sound, so sound that it cannot be condemned even by your enemies?

9 “Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

I would not have the time this morning to consider all the implications at home or work from these simple verses, but PLEASE notice that doctrine is to be adorned with VERY practical actions!

- And finally, Paul explains why we are to work on ALL of these practical things in our lives... **11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men... Yes, Jesus entered Jerusalem at the appointed time so that His gracious salvation would appear to all men!

11 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing

of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

- Paul wants Titus to understand that the BIG picture of God’s great plan of salvation results in a special people who are now zealous for good works... all those important details!

And Paul’s instructions to Titus and to all church leaders down through the centuries goes like this:

15 “Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. 1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”

- WE are to be humble because we know that but for the grace of God we would be no better than the world...

3 “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

- But the coming of the Messiah that first Psalm Sunday morning has changed everything:

4 “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

- This again is the BIG picture: God has saved His people from their sins and established His kingdom... BUT then Paul returns to those important details...

8 “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”

- May we truly be a people of the Word, seeing the big picture of a gracious God who saves His people and a people who are adorning God’s truth with our good works!

Communion Meditation:

Genesis 49:8 “8 "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. 11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.”