

Lighthouse Bible Church

January 19th, 2014

John 12: 12 – 22

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21: 1 - 11

‘Jesus publically proclaimed as the Messiah’

Stand – Read – Pray

Last week we saw Jesus return to Bethany and join Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, along with Mary and Martha and His disciples, in a supper prepared for them in the house of Simon the leper.

We saw that during the meal time that Mary showed an incredible act of selfless, sacrificial love and devotion and worship of Jesus by pouring a pound of costly ointment over Jesus’ head and feet.

We also saw the selfishness, greed, deceptiveness and character of one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot who would betray Jesus, by his comment that the perfume was wasted on Jesus and could have been sold to the poor for 300 denarii. What he really wanted, as the text says, is the money for himself.

We saw that Jesus told His disciples to leave her alone because what she has done, even though she may not have realized it at the time, she has done for My burial.

Then we saw that a great many of the Jews came to see Jesus and came to see the one whom He raised from the dead. They were curiosity seekers that were indifferent to Jesus and just wanted to see this man whom He raised from the dead.

Then there were the chief priests who had already plotted to kill Jesus and now they plot to kill Lazarus as well because he would go around telling everyone about Jesus and many went away and believed in Jesus; and the chief priests hated that so that plotted to kill both of them and that is where we pick it up this morning.

You remember that there was command from the chief priests and Pharisees back in Chapter 11 and verse 57 that if anyone knew where Jesus was that they should report it so they could seize Him. The problem is, according to **Mark 14: 2**, they were afraid of the people so they didn't want to do it until the right time.

Well, Jesus is about to force their hand because His time has come and they are not going to have to guess where He is because He is about to reveal Himself in what is known as His 'Triumphal Entry' into Jerusalem where He is just days away from His crucifixion.

This event is recorded in all four gospels and we will refer to them from time to time to fill in what may not be said or done here. Look at verse 12 – 13.

Verses 12 – 13: the next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out 'Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! the King of Israel.

The next day is Sunday and because of what we are about to see the people do with their palm tree branches, this is known as 'palm Sunday'. This is the beginning of the last week of the life of our Lord and He is in absolute control of everything.

And it says a great multitude that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem. Think about this; you have all the people coming from Bethany following Jesus, you have a great multitude of people coming out to meet Him from Jerusalem, in the midst of 2 million plus people in and around the area for the Passover celebration, and here comes Jesus.

What John doesn't record here the other gospels do. According to **Matthew 21: 1** Jesus arrives by the mount of olives, a place where he spent much time and will go just before He is arrested.

When He gets there Matthew, Mark and Luke record that Jesus tells two of His disciples to go into the city and get a young donkey and its mother and bring them back to Him. *Explain more detail of what happens here.*

Why does Jesus ask them to get this donkey and bring it to Him? **Matthew 21: 4 - 5** tells us all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying 'tell the daughter of Zion behold your King is coming to you, lowly and sitting on a donkey a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This is a prophecy of the coming King, the Messiah written in **Zechariah 9: 9** some 500 years before they would happen. In that passage in Zechariah it says **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.** So Jesus, in this act of riding the donkey is fulfilling scripture by publically telling everyone He is the Messiah. He is coming in peace, He is coming meek and lowly and ready to die. *But the next time He comes, **Revelation 19: 11** says He will come on a white horse with power.*

So the disciples do as they are instructed and bring the donkey back and put their own garments on it for Jesus to sit on.

Then as they move closer to the eastern gate of Jerusalem all the people around Him begin **Matthew 21: 8** says to spread their clothes on the road and other cut down branches from trees and spread them on the road.

Then at the end of Verse 13 of John 12 we see what the people say as Jesus comes near to the city. **Luke 19: 37** says 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..

When you put Matthew, Mark, Luke and John together, we hear what they were saying; Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is the kingdom of our father David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory in the highest, Hosanna in the highest, the King of Israel.

Can you imagine the frenzy of the crowd as more and more people begin to shout that this man on the donkey is the Son of David the king of Israel, the one who saves. You know why they are saying what they are saying? They are fulfilling prophetic scripture as well.

They are quoting **Psalm 118: 25 – 26** which says **save now**, which is in the Hebrew ‘Hosanna’, ... **blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**. And the verses just before that in **Psalm 118: 22** talk about **the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone** referring to Christ **1st Peter 1: 7** says.

They are recognizing Jesus Christ, based on what He has said and taught and done, as the Messiah and they are quoting Old Testament Messianic texts and titles, such as the Son of David, and acknowledging that they are being fulfilled in Jesus at that very moment. It is a beautiful, albeit chaotic scene of Christ being hailed as the promised Messiah.

The Jewish leaders recognized that His followers were calling Him the Messiah and that is why the Pharisees said to Him in **Luke 19: 39 – 40 teacher, rebuke Your disciples.** Tell them to stop praising You as the Son of David, the Messiah. And you know what Jesus says to them in the next verse I tell you that if these should keep silent then the stones would immediately cry out.

Jesus was going to be acknowledged as the Messiah because it was predicted in scripture that He would and the scripture can't be broken. So if they wouldn't praise Him, then the rocks would, because this was His moment to be acknowledged as the Messiah.

Not only that, but Jesus had to come into the city of Jerusalem and be acknowledged as the Messiah on that day to fulfill another prophecy and that prophecy is found in **Daniel 9: 25** which says this; **know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until the Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...** or 69 weeks, each week being a 7 year period of time, making 483 years.

So the prophecy is; that when there is a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem you can go ahead 483 years and it will be the exact day that the Messiah the Prince is acknowledged as such publically, and Jesus was at His triumphal entry. And then **Daniel 9: 26** says that after that, the Messiah would be cut off or killed; and He was.

So if you knew when the command was given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem you could calculate 483 years ahead to see if it matches the triumphal entry of Jesus. Well, we know when the command was given; according to **Nehemiah 2: 1 – 5** it was on the 1st day of the month Nissan in the 20th year of Artaxerxes.

Artaxerxes began his reign in 465 BC so his 20th year of reign would have been 445 BC. So if you converted the Hebrew calendar to our modern day calendar you would have the decree being made on March 14th, 445 BC.

And if you converted the Hebrew calendar year to our modern calendar year, 483 years would be the equivalent of 173,880 days. So from the time of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem on March 14th, 445 BC, are there 173,880 days, to the day, that Jesus made His triumphal entry being acknowledged as the Messiah the Prince. Yes, I'll spare you all the calculations but you can get a book called the 'Coming Prince' by sir Robert Anderson and he does all the calculations.

I share that with you because what we are going to see over and over again is that Jesus is in control of every aspect of what is about to happen to Him and much of it is because He is fulfilling the scriptures written about Him. That's what brings us to Verse 16 of John 12.

Verse 16: His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

His disciples didn't understand what was happening and the things that were being said. Jesus kept telling them that He was coming to Jerusalem to die and now everyone is hailing Him as the Messiah. Is He going to establish His kingdom now and are we going to overthrow the Romans? What?

They don't understand any of this and they won't understand most of this, Verse 16 says, until Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him.

Jesus is going to say later in **John 14: 26 the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.** So they don't understand what is happening now but they will later and they will see how perfectly and accurately and exactly the scriptures were fulfilled in all that happened to Jesus; from what they said about Him to what would eventually happen to Him and they would write about it later. Then look at verses 17 – 18.

Verses 17 – 18: therefore the people who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him because they heard that He had done this sign.

So in the midst of all the praises about Jesus as the Son of David and the One that can save, these people who were with Jesus earlier start telling the crowd that He is the One who raised Lazarus from the dead. That just gets the crowd going that much more and they all want to meet Him.

But they wanted to meet Him, as the end of Verse 18 says, because He is the miracle worker, because He had done this sign in raising Lazarus from the dead. They are the ones that we have seen over and over again that are the thrill seekers, the ones that want to see more miracles but don't necessarily want to listen to the miracle worker. But nonetheless they along with many others are following after Jesus in the frenzy of the crowd. So look how the Pharisees react in Verse 19.

Verse 19: the Pharisees therefore said among themselves 'you see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him'.

The Pharisees want Jesus dead, as we have seen. But they are too afraid to seize Him with so many people around because they feared what the people would do.

They are stuck and they are frustrated and that is exactly where Jesus wants them to be. To be frustrated and afraid about losing their following, about losing their positions and nation as they said in **John 11: 48**. Jesus is in absolute control and He is going to force them to act because He needs to be crucified as the Passover Lamb on the day the Passover was being celebrated on Friday.

They tried to kill Him before but they couldn't because His time had not yet come. And now they want to kill Him but they can't because of the crowd, so Jesus forces their hand because He is in the place and plan of God to die as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world on Friday.

It is the right year, the right week, the right day and the right hour for Him to fulfill all that had been written about Him and His death, From Daniel's prophecy to Zehcariah's prophecy and others, His time has come. Remember He said in **John 10: 18** **I lay down My life ... no one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself... I have the power to lay it down.**

Verse 20: now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast.

Well, the Pharisees were right, the whole world appeared to be going after Jesus and we get a glimpse of a small group of them here; they are called certain Greeks or Gentiles.

These are non-Jewish Gentile proselytes to the Jewish faith. They had been converted to Judaism somewhere in their Gentile world. They were as **Acts 10: 2, 22** calls **Cornelius a God fearer** who abandoned their pagan religious practices and began following God. In **Acts 17:4** they are called **devout Greeks who were listening to Paul preach Christ**. They were some of the ones that **Acts 17: 17** says **went into the synagogues to worship God**.

These converts to Judaism were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover along with everyone else. While coming to Jerusalem or at sometime earlier, they probably heard some stories about Jesus and as they get closer to Jerusalem they are undoubtedly hearing about Him raising a man from the dead.

So they want to know more about this Jesus and would like to meet Him so **Verse 21 says then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him saying ‘sir we wish to see Jesus’.**

These Gentiles came to Philip because they apparently, somehow, recognized him as one of Jesus’ disciples. Maybe because Philip is a Greek name, maybe because Philip came from Bethsaida of Galilee, a Gentile area known as Decapolis that had several Greek cities (*Matthew 4: 25*). For whatever reason, they come to Philip and look what Philip does in Verse 22.

Verse 22: Philip came and told Andrew and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Maybe Philip was unsure of what to do with these Gentiles wanting to see Jesus, so he goes and tells Andrew and it appears that Andrew doesn’t know what to do either so they say ‘lets go tell Jesus that these Gentiles want to talk with Him’

Maybe these Gentiles wanted to talk with Jesus to find out if the information was true that He was the Messiah. You see when a Gentile converts to Judaism, he learns about the hope of the Jew and that is the coming Messiah. Maybe in their travels to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration they were hearing that Jesus was being hailed as the Messiah, the Son of God, the king of Israel.

So they go to Jesus and tell Him that these Gentile God fearers want to see Him and talk with Him. And then there is nothing, we don't hear if they got to see Him or what happened to them.

My suspicion is that as Jesus begins to talk in Verse 23, these Gentiles were with Philip and Andrew and they get to hear all of what Jesus is about to say. And so do we and this is an incredible passage of scripture that we will look at next time.

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Introduction and Review:

Mark 14: 2

Verses 12 – 15:

Matthew 21: 1, 4 – 5, 8, Zechariah 9: 9

Revelation 19: 11, Luke 19: 37, 39 - 40

**Psalm 118: 22 – 26, 1st Peter 1: 7, Daniel 9: 25-
26**

Nehemiah 2: 1 – 5

Verse 16:

John 14: 26

Verses 17 – 19:

John 11: 48, John 10: 18

Verse 20:

Acts 10: 2, 22, Acts 17: 4, 17

Verses 21 – 22:

Matthew 4: 25

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John 11: 48, John 10: 18

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Matthew 4: 25