

Luke 19: “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-pha-GE 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, 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."”

"They Should Have Known"

Before considering our text, I would first like to begin near the end of this very important week in the Church calendar to another event that took place on Sunday afternoon a week later, after the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior Jesus. On that afternoon, Luke tells us that Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who are pretty depressed by all that happened: And this is where Jesus said to them, ““O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. [Luke 24:25-27]

So please keep those comments in mind as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday: An event that brings all four Gospel writers together in amazing detail.

- Jesus is now proclaiming Himself to be the Messiah of Israel publicly!

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 and even some demons to NOT proclaim who He was and kept much of His ministry in the quiet corners of Israel, now enters the holy city openly and boldly as their new King & Savior!

His appointed time has come indeed!

- An appointed time which Jesus later told those disciples was revealed by the Law & the Prophets, so in reality they should have known!

Having a donkey be part of this important event might seem strange in our age of Hollywood and super heroes, but not if we are familiar with those same Scriptures!

- We can find several references to rulers & donkeys in the Old Testament!

Judges 5:9 “My heart is with the rulers of Israel ...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 learn this 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:

1 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!'"

- **The Gospel writers have King Jesus riding into Jerusalem at His appointed time to be the suffering Messiah!**
- **God’s great plan of salvation is now being carrying out. The plan that was established before the world began...**
- **The plan announced to Adam & Eve as God promised the serpent that the seed of the woman would crush his head.**

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 are angry and demand Jesus make these people stop:

- **And Jesus says, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."**

Jesus means exactly what He says: Especially since He said the stones would IMMEDIATELY cry out! The rocks themselves would have cried out: “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

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

It takes us 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.”

- **Obviously, having stones do things is not a problem for our God!**
- **Why would the stones have cried out on this particular day?**

Because this was the appointed day for the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah!

- **Just as God had said in the Law & prophets that these leaders and his own disciples should have known!**
- **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?

- **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]

Today many ‘expert’ higher critics often have long discussions trying to figure out who King Cyrus was and what year they came back!

- **Such discussions are not surprising 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 because the time of His coming could be known!**
- **And Jesus KNEW this was His appointed day to ride into Jerusalem as their new King!**

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!**
- **Confident that God moves in history, and always ready to obey!**

We must always believe God knows what He is doing and is ready and able to accomplish His plans! We must be ready to obey God’s simple commands, just as those disciples did when asked to go get the donkey! [comment on their thoughts & the owners thoughts]

Some weeks ago, we discussed the major problems facing our nation and what our role should be in advancing the Kingdom.

- **This special day and the text before us reminds us again that God uses means, often very common means, to accomplish His grand plans.**

In our text, Jesus needed a donkey and He sends His disciples off to get the one He knew would be available. What if those disciples had not gone to get the donkey? Well, knowing the account of Balaam, & all this talk about rocks, we should know that the donkey could well have come with or without their help!

A few weeks ago Pastor Sandlin challenged Elder Liberati and all of us with Paul’s instructions to Titus: For our applications this morning, I want to turn again to that short book as a reminder of how God uses us as His means in the advancement of His Kingdom. Just as those disciples played a role in this important day, there are things God wants us to do in our daily lives that will quite literally impact the history of God’s Kingdom!

In the Scriptures God often recounts His great works and so the Apostle Paul opens his letter to Titus by encouraging us to focus on THE BIG picture of how God works out our salvation:

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,”

- **A grand BIG picture!**
- **Paul goes on to instruct Titus about how to appoint qualified leaders for the Church and warns him about heretics, which is the material that Pastor Sandlin challenged us with.**

In Chapter 2, Paul tells Titus, to “speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine...”

- Here we see the very practical steps of obedience for our lives...

Steps of obedience that God uses to accomplish His purposes and ones we should rejoice to do rather than have some rocks take our place! There is a TON of good doctrine in what Paul teaches, but his goal is not to have us get 100% on a test:

- The purpose of teaching good doctrine is that we might obey!

Sound doctrine says that the older men should 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?

Sound doctrine says that “the older women likewise, [are to] 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?

-- To love your husband & children

-- To be discreet and chaste

-- To be good homemakers & obedient to their husbands

- Do we believe that NOT doing so is blasphemous?

Sound doctrine exhorts “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 are watching you?
- 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?

And the Apostle continues, with more sound doctrine...

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!
- And that plan results in a special people who are now zealous for good works!

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.”

And finally Paul returns to those important details, like bringing a donkey when the King needs one...

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 & 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...
- Those works we were created in Christ Jesus to walk in!

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.”