

Luke 19: 28-40; “Going up to Jerusalem”, A Sermon for Palm Sunday,
Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 29th, 2015,
In the Morning Worship Service.

The holy courage and determination of our Lord Jesus Christ to go up to Jerusalem and die for the sins of those who need Him is found here in verse 28; “He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.” He didn’t stop to take counsel with His disciples; He didn’t linger back from the sufferings which His Father was calling Him to. He went on before his disciples as the Captain of their salvation and ours. If we have come to saving faith in Christ we should deeply admire and appreciate this fortitude of spirit that He evidenced that day. We want to follow Him as He goes up to Jerusalem. We want to learn more of this great salvation which is ours, in Him. If we are unbelievers we should admire the strength of Christ’s spirit which would take Him to the place where He would die for sinners; we should admire, but not stop there. We should also believe and receive what He has done there to ourselves. He was a King who would suffer for His subjects who were sinful. He was a Prophet who would show us the way to God. He was a Priest who would lay down His life not only for His friends, but also for His enemies, that they might be saved. And so I will consider it a privilege this morning to have you accompany me as we follow the Lord Jesus up to Jerusalem. I would like you to consider with me 1st – That the Lord went up to Jerusalem as an act of humility. 2nd – That the Lord did take notice of the acts of His disciple’s loyalty. And 3rd – Our Lord took notice of those who praised Him, and those who did not. As we examine each of these actions we will attempt to tie them to ourselves and how we should respond to the Lord Jesus today.

1st – The Lord went up to Jerusalem as an act of humility. (Verses 29-34)

If we were to turn back to Mark chapter 10, verse 32, we would find that it says this: “Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed.” “And as they followed they were afraid.” “Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him.” “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priest and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him.” “And the third day He will rise again.” Now truly we need to see this is an amazing thing; that the Lord Jesus would be so willing to lead the way to His own sufferings and death. But it was so. He was doing this because He was humbling Himself to the point of death, even the death of the cross. It is truly an amazing thing, and we should consider it carefully, that He who knew no sin would be so willing to go to the cross for our sins, when He had none of His own to suffer for. But it was His love for all of His elect people, that gave Him this courage to go up to Jerusalem, and to suffer for their sins.

It was no wonder that His disciples were afraid. They did not understand why their Master was doing this. In Luke 18: 34 Jesus says the same thing that He did in Mark 10, but Luke adds a little more information: “But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.” He probably seemed to them to be acting as one who was trying to be brave without really having a cause. Little did they know that it was their salvation which was the reason for His acting in this way. And not only were the disciples concerned about Him, they also did not understand what would become of themselves. They were afraid before He told them what would happen. How much more so, after He told them. They did not understand what all of these things meant. But you and I who have the completed Scriptures, we can understand what they meant. We have the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Now here at the end of verse 29 says, "He sent two of His disciples, 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." "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.'" "So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them." They were indeed asked by the owners, "Why are you loosing the colt?" And they replied, "The Lord has need of him." Now we must ask ourselves why this incident is recorded in such detail and included in all the gospels. I believe that it is recorded here, so we can learn something about how the Lord accomplished His good work in redemption, and how we should view Him now in the accomplishment of our salvation. The colt that Jesus rode upon was the emblem of His cause; the cause of truth, and meekness, and righteousness. Notice first of all how great is the Lord's prescience; how great is His ability to know the minutest details of things in all places and in regard to all people, so as to use them to accomplish His purposes. This shows forth the glory of His deity. The Lord Jesus states where His disciples were to go to find the colt. He states that no one had ever sat on it. He states that He knew that there would be disciples there who would be asking why they were loosing it. In Matthew's gospel Jesus states that they would find not only the colt, but her mother with her. He instructed them to bring both the donkey and the colt to Him.

Our Lord Jesus knew exactly what He wanted to use in riding into Jerusalem. He knew that He needed this colt to communicate a message to the people about what kind of kingdom that He had come to bring. He knew exactly where to find this colt and what should be said to the owners to get them to release it. "The Lord has need of it." The Lord was concerned with the outworking of all the details relating to the accomplishing of our salvation. He is still concerned with all the details related to our salvation and our growth in grace. He knows exactly how to accomplish what is of concern to Him in regard to our salvation. This is something which every Christian ought to believe. This colt, the foal of a donkey, is an emblem of the lowliness of Jesus; it is an emblem of His humbling Himself to come and suffer for our salvation. Turn with me over to Matthew 21, verse 4. Here we see that what Jesus was doing in asking for this colt and choosing to ride it, was to fulfill the prophecy in Zechariah 9: 9. Verse 4 here says, "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.'" So Jesus' riding into Jerusalem in this way shows us that He took the lowly position, the lowly and less impressive mode of conveying Himself into Jerusalem that day. And yet, He would come to be recognized for who He was, before those who were so joyful to receive Him that day. He was their King; the King of the Jews. In the first part of His ministry He deliberately made Himself of no reputation in order that He would not be taken and made king of the Jews. But now that He knew that His time to die was close at hand, He made Himself known in this lowly way; that He was the Messiah of Israel. He was openly public in this ride; but He was lowly in the way that He came to the daughter of Zion; His own people the Jews, and those whom He came to save among them.

But this colt, the foal of a donkey is also an emblem of what Jesus would most certainly be able to do in the salvation of sinners. It was a colt which on which no man had ever ridden. This means that the colt was not broken for riding and might actually cause some trouble for the one who undertook to ride it. But Jesus would know what to do so that He could tame it and ride it in the time of His entry into Jerusalem. He was proclaiming by His riding this donkey colt, His ability to be able to take the most independent and even the most stubborn of sinners and tame them for His purposes of bringing them to God and have them become serviceable to Him. This is something that each of us ought to be able to rejoice in this morning. We were once tied up under a service to other masters, but Christ called us to Himself and loosed us from our bondage to the law and sin, and He does indeed have a task for us to do. It is that we might bear Him

about; through our lives and through our witness, proclaiming His humility and His death; and the wonders of His love to sinful men. It is the duty of Christ's people to convey to the minds of believers and unbelievers alike the nature of His kingdom in the way that we think and live. His grace tames our sinful passions and desires to be independent from doing God's will. He brings us into sweet submission to Himself so that others can see and rejoice that He takes the strong and stubborn sinner and make him useful in His service.

Lest you think that this might be a wrong application of this truth, turn with me to Psalm 32 where you will find similar language being used. In verse 8 we find God speaking to King David, who had acknowledged his sin to the Lord and the Lord had forgiven Him. Now He would do the Lord's bidding. God speaks to him and tells him this: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye." "Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near to you." "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him." "Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!" That was exactly what the people were doing who welcomed Jesus as He took that ride. They were rejoicing in His cause, and in the way that He rode into Jerusalem that day, which said very much about Him and the kingdom that He was bringing. His was the spiritual cause of the salvation of our souls, making us free from the bondage of the law and giving us the ability to be useful to Him for service. All service for Jesus will be established through the humility of our hearts, and the humility of our actions. God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the lowly.

Now 2ndly – The Lord took notice of the actions of the disciples throwing their own clothes on the colt, as an act of loyalty. (Verses 35-37)

"Then they brought him (the colt) to Jesus." "And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him." "And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road." This action their throwing their clothes on the colt was an act which declared their loyalty and their allegiance to their King. The actions of spreading their clothes on the road, was like rolling out the red carpet for the one who they would have become their King. You find another example of this in the Bible in 2 Kings Chapter 9, verse 13 if you will turn with me there. Jehu has just been anointed king over Israel in the place of Ahab's wicked son Joram who continued the wicked practices of Baal-worship. Jehu was anointed by a prophet sent from Elisha, and he thought that the prophet was a mad-man who had come to him and anointed him, and he stated as much to his friends and captains. But those who were loyal to Jehu knew that this thing was of the Lord. Verse 13 says, "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!'" They knew that this was the work of the Lord. They were throwing in their lot with him; throwing their clothes under him; giving him their full support and allegiance. In similar fashion, here in this situation that we are studying, it was the disciples who threw their own clothes on the colt, and there were many others, then, who were spreading their clothes on the road who; some of them may have been disciples, and others just curious on-lookers who had come out from Jerusalem to see what was happening. There were people from many surrounding areas who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover week, and Jesus was, no doubt, someone that they had heard of, but perhaps they had never seen before. But they were all anxious to together proclaim this Jesus, who had done so many mighty miracles, King.

If you will turn over with me to John 12, I will show you why so many people came out from the city to meet Him. We find here in verse 12 that there was a second group of people who came out from Jerusalem to meet Jesus and the first large group which had come with Him so far. "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”. “Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, Your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt.” “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.” 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.” “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, ‘You see that you are accomplishing nothing.’” “Look, the world has gone after Him!” The Pharisees thought that day that their cause was now lost and that they could not get rid of Jesus’ influence on the people. But we should remember that it would be God’s providence to so order the events that Jesus would be falsely tried and put to death. This cruel opposition to the Lord Jesus would be at the instigation of the Pharisees and Sadducees and the rulers of the people.

Now, I will admit, that there may have been some there who were spreading their clothes on the road that day who were more interested in seeing Jesus become a political king and deliver them from the rule of Rome over them. There may have even been many who understood little of how Jesus would establish and administrate His spiritual kingdom. But I believe that there were also many there that day who had believed in Jesus and followed Jesus, even so. God knows how many there were there that day who were loyal and true hearts to the cause of Jesus. I believe that there were many who were. Were there many there also, who later turned against Jesus and cried out crucify Him, crucify? There may have been some, but I believe from the words of verse 13, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!, the King of Israel!”, that the majority of the people there that day were sympathetic and loyal to Jesus’ true spiritual cause and a good many of them desired to come to know their God better through this their proclaimed Messiah. Hosanna means, “Lord save now!” They were looking for that salvation which was more than political, and they believed that they would find it in Jesus. They did not know all the things that we know now, having a completed New Testament in our hands. But they wanted to be shown the truth. Only Jesus could accomplish and apply the great work of their salvation then; and only Jesus can save us now.

Their waving of the palm branches was a symbol of their joy and their belief in the victory of His cause, which they were loyal to. We can see very clearly, can’t we, that our very loyalty and allegiance to Christ was established by His doing what He was doing for all believers that day; His going up to Jerusalem to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins for our sins. But those in that crowd that day, who believed in Him, did yet understand what He would do for them on the cross. They didn’t yet understand why Jesus would have to suffer and die. They didn’t see the complete picture of how Jesus could conquer through His being rejected by the Jews as a nation, in general, or by His suffering on the cross; but I believe that there were many who were truly loyal to Him that day. That is why they cast their garments upon the colt. They were with Jesus, to identify with His cause. That is why they spread their garments out on the road. They would pave the way for Him, in His going up to Jerusalem do the greatest of His works; by their giving praises to Him, their King. Let me ask you now, if this is what you will do this day? Will you Praise the King of Glory, even though His cause is not going forward by leaps and bounds in this our day?

This is what Christ calls you to do. You understand far more about what Jesus was doing that day than those people did back then. They praised Him with their limited knowledge. They welcomed Him and gave Him their allegiance in throwing their clothes on the colt and in the road, not really understanding that He would have to suffer and die on the cruel cross for them in just a few days’ time. Will you not praise Him now, looking back on all that you now know that He has done for you? The Lord Jesus was riding triumphantly to His death that day; His

death for you and all who will believe in Him. Your being a Christian is all about your swearing allegiance to who Jesus is; the Son of God and Lord of Glory. It is all about your receiving anew and afresh to your heart and mind the things which He has done by His death to merit your salvation. It is all about His continuing to supply you with His strength and His grace to live out the truth of the Bible and to be a useful servant to Him. Please give Him yourself, anew and afresh today. Give Him all that you are, give Him all that you have and want to be. Give it all to Him, the One who has died for your sins.

And then, as you look at the state of His cause and kingdom in the world today, please do not despair, even if it comes to look very dark, even dead at some point in the future. God the Father holds all things in His hands. It was His predetermined plan and purpose that His dear Son should suffer for our sakes. And it is still His way now, in relation to the advance of Christ's Church. The Church, just like her Lord, is marching on to victory. One day she shall reign upon the earth. Someday the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. But for now, there is still great opposition. Still coming is Antichrist's greatest deception, and the slaying of the Church's witness. And yet, even though the cause of Christ appear to die in its witness in our generation, yet it shall not, because of Jesus Christ our Lord. Your part, dear Christian, is to bear witness to who Christ is, and what He has done for you, in suffering and dying for your sins. Listen to 1st John 4: 17 – "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world." How was Christ when He was in this world? He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And He suffered for our sins. He calls us to suffer with Him, if need be, in our living for truth, and meekness, and righteousness. When you do this, and suffer for it, blessed are you. When you praise the Lord and know in your heart that all that God has promised will come to pass, and come to pass gloriously, even though sufferings come, crucifixion, and death; yet Christ's kingdom shall eventually prevail and His glory be seen in all the earth. This faith will glorify God through all sorrows, sufferings, disappointments, and griefs, and triumph in the joy of know Christ.

Now 3rdly – Our Lord took notice of those who praised Him, and those who did not. (Verses 37-40)

"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!" "And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.'" "But He answered and said to them, 'I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.'" The Pharisees were issuing a rebuke to Jesus and their rebuke was that these disciples of His should not praise Him as the king of Israel, the King who comes in the name of the Lord. They believed that He should tell them to be quiet and that they should quit trying to give Him glory as though He were the Messiah of Israel. But Jesus issues a rebuke to them that echoes down through the generations to where we sit now. "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out. What is Jesus saying here? He is saying that God was well pleased with His being accorded praise from His disciples for His coming to Jerusalem. God was well-pleased that they should come to praise Him, and that they would declare Him to be their King. He was not ashamed of the work which He had come to do. And the all the multitude of disciples that day were not ashamed to own Him as their Lord and King.

If that was the case then, how wrong it would be for us now; to be silent in our hearts in our praises to our King Jesus, for all that He has accomplished and all the grace that He has applied to our hearts and lives. He courageously went up to Jerusalem, as the King of Glory and the Son of God, to brave the rebukes and to bear the rage of these religious men who rejected Him and

put Him to death. He did this mighty work out of love for sinners like you and me. He did this out of His great love to make us His saints. He did this for the joy that was set before Him, to purchase our salvation; He “endured the cross and despise the shame” and suffered and bled and died for us. We who are unworthy of such a great salvation ought to praise Him with all of our hearts, and welcome Him here and now; and pray and ask Him how we can be His servants in righteousness. Let us pray and ask Him how we can convey Him and the truth of His cause to other people around us. For there are many needy sinners in this world. And Jesus has come that they might be set free.