

Scripture Reading:

[Coming after the Parable of the King returning to a Kingdom of unthankful subjects...]

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 Bethphage 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 He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." **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. **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."

Being Home for the Day of Visitation

Today we celebrate Psalm Sunday: The beginning of the Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday where we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

- Each year we remind ourselves through using the Church calendar of the coming of Jesus with Advent and Christmas.
- With the Easter season, we see that He truly did come to save His people from their sins!
- Then with Ascension Sunday, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday we are reminded that the Father has established the Kingdom of His Son and that they lead and empower His Bride, the Church with coming of the Holy Spirit.

So today we look at the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem:

All four Gospel accounts give amazingly similar accounts:

Matthew, Mark and Luke all show Jesus focusing on coming to Jerusalem at His appointed time: Luke is especially strong as his entire account shifts from the ministry of Jesus in Galilee toward Jerusalem in Luke 9:51: “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...”

- The Gospel writers also make it clear that this day was the fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy:

Zechariah 9: “9 "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.”

- Luke shows Jesus weeping over Jerusalem and saying they did not see their own day of visitation: The day they should have clearly seen:
- Just as they knew that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem... and then rejected the coming of the Messiah!

The same scholars would have known that the time of Messiah had come from Daniel's prophecies in chapter nine:

Daniel 9:22 "He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place."

- **Jesus knew that His time had come AND that all of Jerusalem should have known as well:**

When the religious leaders implore him to silence His disciples and the children He simply tells them that if they did not announce His coming, then the very stones themselves would cry out!

- **They should have known, but they missed their day of visitation!**

And it is here that we find an important lesson for us today. As I have implied with the title of the sermon:

- **We want to be sure we are Home for the Day of Visitation**

This could be one of those times where we can get so caught up admiring the forest that we forget to notice the trees! Like admiring an ancient Redwood forest in a helicopter and not getting out to view one of the giants close up! As exciting as it is to consider the grand picture of what is coming together, it is very important that we do not miss the practical applications to our lives.

Our first lesson is not missing the days of visitation in OUR lives:

It is easy to point at the Jews saying that they should have known, but remember that puts three fingers pointing back at us!

Having the Devines with us today should remind us that we must be in fervent prayer about having a new church plant in the Bay Area: We do not want to be presumptuous and charge forward without the Lord, BUT we also don't want to fail to recognize the right time:

-- Their day of visitation!

- **Certainly our covenant children should take note of a VERY important application here:**

When the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter six, instructs you as Saints in Christ's Church he simply says:

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

This is a good place for them to learn about how a sermon application works!

All Jerusalem should have known that Jesus was coming to save them from their sins: That is what Daniel promised. They missed their 'day of visitation' because they did not believe what God said.

Would you like things to "go well" in your lives?

Would you live to "live long on the earth?"

Do you think those will be based on decisions that you make later in life?

- **God's Word says that your "day of visitation" is NOW during your youth when you can choose to obey your mother and father!**

If you miss it, your day of visitation, don't blame God when you have a short miserable life... though Jesus will weep over you, as He did over Jerusalem when they did not obey!

This week my morning readings brought me to Genesis chapter 24 with the touching story of finding a bride for Isaac. At a critical point, the servant wants to leave with Rebecca and they call her in to see if she is willing to go:

-- This was her day of visitation!

What if she had said, give me a few days or weeks? What if she had refused to go? When she did return, what if Isaac had been fussy about having his wife chosen for him?

- **It would have meant not being home on a Day of Visitation**
- **But, Isaac and Rebecca understood their callings, they knew that the Lord desired to bless them and they faithfully obeyed.**

I could go on, but I want to make sure we don't miss one other very important application from this morning's text that will help us be HOME for our days of visitation!

- **Jesus knows that His time to enter Jerusalem has come and that now he enters as the Servant-King**
- **This is a contrast to His earlier admonitions to "tell no one" and ministering in rural places.**

He rides in on a donkey, vast crowds cheer Him on with loud Hosannas, He weeps over the city and then enters Jerusalem and the rest of this important week commences.

Now let's go back to the text to notice a couple of the details, more of those trees if you will:

Luke 19:29... "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.'

“The Lord has need of it!”

- **Does not the Lord say that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills?**
- **Could He not have created a donkey by simply speaking it into existence as He did the entire creation?**
- **Could He not have led any colt to His side as He did the pairs of animals to the ark?**

**Yes, but Jesus chose to have NEED of this particular man’s donkey!
Just as He has need of us as Saints who are “created in Christ Jesus unto good works”**

- **For this man it was an important ‘day of visitation’ and his ‘good work’ was to let Jesus use his donkey!**

What an appropriate Sunday for us to meditate on this concept of simple obedience: With both a baptism and the Devine family taking their membership vows!

-- Jesus has need of our lives: In Luke chapter ten He tells His disciples “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

-- Jesus has need of our children which is why the promise is unto you and your children!

In Matthew’s account which we did not read, the children are crying out “Hosanna to the Son of David” in the Temple and the religious leaders are outraged and demand that they be stopped.

Jesus rebukes the leaders by saying: “Have you never read, out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise” quoting from Psalm 8 which we sing often!

Are we willing to give the Lord our lives and our children?

Jesus commanded Igor & Paola to baptize little Analisa – to give her to Him as a child of the Covenant: They have willingly and joyfully obeyed!

They could be called to be just as willing & joyous, when a young suitor asks her hand in marriage just as he begins work as a missionary to Tibet.

It is easy to be dramatic and think that will never happen to us, but the Bible focuses on the importance of some seemingly mundane things:

This is what we must not miss this morning!

Suppose we were living in the time where Jesus was walking this earth as a man:

- **If I simply asked if you would let Jesus borrow your car I am pretty sure that any of you would say YES, without hesitation!**

But what if a member of His body, the church needed to borrow that same car? Now we might have to see if it is convenient, what it will be used for and make sure the question of having the proper insurance is settled.

- **What if Jesus were hungry and needed to come over for something to eat: Who would not drop EVERYTHING & prepare a feast!**

Would we do the same for one of the saints, or would we first have to check our schedule and make sure we had enough for the extra guest?

- **If Jesus were thrown in prison for violating some of today's 'tolerance' laws how long would the line be with Christians waiting to pay Him a visit in prison?**

Last time I checked, there were no lines around any prison with folks looking to visit Christians who are in jail. – mention Igor's ministry

On this first Psalm Sunday:

Jesus had need of a donkey!

He sent two unnamed disciples who willingly obeyed all that he told them to do, NO questions, just obedience!

The owner of the donkey was willing to let the Lord have use of it with no questions and no strings attached!

These examples of simple obedience then allowed Jesus to ride into Jerusalem as the servant-King at His appointed time:

-- Jerusalem's Day of Visitation.

How important is it for us to obey the Lord in such simple things? How important is it for us to let the Lord have use of our lives, our children and our possessions?

In Matthew's Gospel, a few chapters after the account of the Lord's triumphal entry, we find the Lord explaining to His disciples how Israel has failed, how Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed and that the Kingdom will be given to others

It is here near the end of chapter 25 that He tells us pretty directly how important this concept of willing service really is:

As we consider whether we want to be "home" for our day of visitation: -- those times when we are called to obedience –

Let us listen carefully to these sobering words from our Lord:

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 Then the

righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

And the importance is certainly underlined by what follows:

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Jesus does have need of our lives, our possessions and even our children.

Let us NOT be like those people who missed their day of visitation in Jerusalem:

- Who had ears but could not hear.
- Who had eyes but could not see.

Let us be like those faithful disciples who did the bidding of Jesus, being willing AND obedient:

Like that unknown but obedient man whose colt then carried the King of Glory into the City of Jerusalem to save His people from their sins!

Communion meditation:

Zechariah 9: 9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ...

[God does battle for His people]

16 On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. 17 For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.”

Let us rejoice as we partake of the bread and wine that will make us flourish!