

The Harshness Of God- Palm Sunday **Luke 19v28-44**

I. The Triumphal Entry (Luke 19:28–40)

Jesus approaches Jerusalem with intention (journey from Luke 9)

Sends disciples to retrieve a colt → fulfills expectation

Public response:

Cloaks spread on road (royal honor)

Praise from Psalm 118: “Blessed is the king...”

Declaration: “Peace in heaven, glory in the highest”

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples,

30 saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” 32 So those who were sent

departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34 They said, “The Lord needs it.” 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that 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 heaven!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

II. Rising Expectations & Messianic Hope

Mount of Olives → loaded with eschatological meaning (Zechariah 14v2-3; 6-9)

2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives...6 On that day there shall not be either cold or frost. 7 And there shall be continuous day (it is known to the Lord), not day and not night, for at evening time there shall be light.

8 On that day living water shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of it to the eastern sea and half of it to the western sea; it shall continue in summer as in winter.

9 And the Lord will become king over all the earth; on that day the Lord will be one and his name one.

People anticipate:
God's final victory
National restoration
Peace through overthrow of enemies
Jesus both meets and subverts these expectations

III. The Meaning of the Colt

Not just humility, but royal legitimacy
Solomon rides David's mule (1 Kings 1)

1 Kings 1

32 King David said, "Summon to me the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king, 33 the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule and bring him down to Gihon. 34 There let the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him king over Israel; then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 You shall go up following him. Let him enter and sit on my throne; he shall be king in my place, for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

Connected to prophecy:
Zechariah 9 → king comes on a donkey

Zechariah 9vv9-10; 17
Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

On that day the Lord their God will save them,
for they are the flock of his people,

for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on his land.

17

For what goodness and beauty are his!
Grain shall make the young men flourish,
and new wine the young women.

IV. The Crowd's Hope vs. Reality

Crowd expresses:

Revolutionary expectation (2 Kings 9)

Desire for political/military peace

Echo of Luke 2:

Birth: "Peace on earth"

Entry: "Peace in heaven"

Underlying question: How will peace come?

V. Hidden Tension

Jesus does not correct the crowd

Temporary recognition of him as king

Expectation vs. reality = widening gap

Same crowd → later rejection (Good Friday)

VI. Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44)

41 As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

Two key themes:

Failure to recognize "what makes for peace"

Failure to recognize God's visitation

Prophetic warning:

Coming destruction (fulfilled in 70 AD)

VII. False Peace vs. True Peace

False peace:

Violence, revolution, nationalism

True peace:

God's way, not human force

Jesus rejects militant expectations

VIII. Historical Fulfillment

Fall of Jerusalem (70 AD, Josephus)

Siege, famine, destruction

Confirms Jesus' prophecy

Josephus, Antiquities, Book VI:

THUS did the miseries of Jerusalem grow worse and worse every day, and the seditious were still more irritated by the calamities they were under, even while the famine preyed upon themselves, after it had preyed upon the people. And indeed the multitude of carcasses that lay in heaps one upon another was a horrible sight, and produced a pestilential stench, And truly the very view itself of the country was a melancholy thing; for those places which were before adorned with trees and pleasant gardens were now become a desolate country every way, and its trees were all cut down: nor could any foreigner that had formerly seen Judea and the most beautiful suburbs of the city, and now saw it as a desert, but lament and mourn sadly at so great a change: for the war had laid all the signs of beauty quite waste

IX. Application:

Collective

Warning against:

Using Jesus for political agendas

Justifying violence in God's name

Individual

Personal reflection:

What do we think brings peace?

Reality:

We often misunderstand peace

True peace:

Found in surrender to Jesus

Not in control, ambition, or self-fulfillment

The Crowd as Mirror

Movement:

Palm Sunday praise → Good Friday rejection

Invitation:

Examine our own place in the crowd

The Central Focus: Jesus

Jesus' mission:

Set toward Jerusalem (Luke 9)

Moves into misunderstanding, suffering, and rejection

Not distant judgment:

Enters into suffering with his people

Weeps, then bears judgment

The Gospel Hope

Jesus absorbs judgment:

Sin and death as true enemies

Fulfillment:

Rejected stone → cornerstone

Good news:

God conquers through sacrifice, not force

Judgment becomes redemption