

Luke 19 : 28 - 44 (NIVUK)

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

²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?'

³⁴ They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'

⁴⁰ 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you.'

Good morning friends, on this Palm Sunday, I'd like us to consider Four points as we look, at this passage, from Luke, and they are :

Preparation – Declaration - Celebration and Lamentation

So Firstly Preparation, Verses 28 – 35.

Now, the owners of the donkey, and the colt, commentators suggest, were followers of Jesus, for they had, everything ready for Him. In many ways, this plan, was to be executed, carried out, quietly, because the Jewish leaders, had already, let it be known, that anyone, confessing Christ as the Messiah, would be excommunicated, thrown out of the synagogue. (John Chapter 9 and verse 22).

Consequently, the fact, that the rulers, had planned to kill Jesus, made it even, more important, that the owners, of the donkey and the colt, were protected, from being found out, and persecuted, for their faith in Jesus. (John 7:1, 19, 25; 8:37; 11:47-57).

Now, in our western thinking, we often think, of the donkey, as a lowly animal, a beast of burden, as it were; But, BUT, to the Jew, it was animal, worthy, fit for a king (1 Kings 1:33, 44).

And so, in Luke 19, and verse 35, we hear, that Jesus, rode the colt, while the mother, walked along with it. Interestingly, in verse 30, we are told, that the colt, had never been ridden, and yet, AND YET, it submitted to Jesus, riding upon it. As a commentator suggested, perhaps this indicates, our Lord's sovereignty, over all, ALL of His creation.

My second point, is, Declaration, Verses 36 – 38.

Now, often we take the laying of palm leaves, and garments, for granted, and yet, as I understand it, palm branches, were all part of, a traditional, Jewish celebration; for they were used, in the celebration, of victory, and in King David's time, they were used, to honour, receive and welcome Royalty. And for me, this fact, of the history, makes a perfect connection, to the true identity, of Jesus, as the King of Kings.

Now, I have recently learnt, that a palm tree, takes 30 years, to bear fruit, and a man, could not, become a High Priest, until he was, 30 years old. And, you may remember, that Jesus' ministry began, when he was, YES 30 years old. And so here, the palm branches, point to Jesus, being King, and High Priest; but there was, something else, that day, that was laid, before Jesus, that also, carries meaning and significance, as well.

And that was, peoples "cloaks", or as other interpretations say, "garments", which were also, spread out, on the road, for the triumphal entry, of Jesus, into Jerusalem. Now, this was, more than, just an act, of honour, for this, **THIS, was an acknowledgment, a declaration, that Jesus, was, the King of Kings, the promised Messiah.**

For again, as I learnt recently, the word garment, here, is the word "tallit", or "prayer shawl"; and this was, a seamless garment, with four corners, with a tassel, attached, to each, of the four corners, to remind, the Jewish people, of all, the commands, of God.

Now, on the collar, of the “prayer shawl”; were the Hebrew letters, that spell, “Lord of lords and King of kings”, these were, a symbolic reminder, of the promised, Messiah. The consequence being, that by laying, their “tallit’s” down, the people, **THE PEOPLE**, were acknowledging Jesus, as God’s promised Messiah. By their words and their actions, they were declaring, that Jesus, was the one, worthy, to be called, the “Lord of lords and King of kings”.

And so, whether it was, the palm branches, or the tallit’s, or the words, they shouted, it all pointed, to Jesus, being the Messiah, High Priest and, **AND**, King.

And so my third point, is, that of Celebration, Verses 38 to 40.

My Friends, this, **THIS**, is the only time, that Jesus, permitted, a public demonstration, on His behalf, and He did so, I believe, for at least, two reasons. Firstly, He was fulfilling prophecy, and presenting Himself, as Israel’s king – Zechariah Chapter 9 and verse 9. Now, I must confess, that I wonder, how much, the crowd, really understood, of what was going on that day, and of course, we don’t really know; but, **BUT**, what we do know, is that as, Jesus entered, into Jerusalem that day, they responded, by saying **Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!** **‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’** And here, they quoting, from a messianic psalm – Psalm 118 and Verses 25 - 26. Now as commentators, and writers, before me, have said, the consequence of this, was that many, of the Passover pilgrims, may well of thought, and wished, that Jesus – **THE MESSIAH** - would now, get rid of the Roman invaders, and establish, the glorious, kingdom.

Now for me, and as other scholars, have suggested, the second reason, for this demonstration, was to force, the Jewish, religious leaders, to act. You see, they had hoped, to arrest Him, *after* the Passover – Matthew Chapter 26 and verses 1 - 6, but firstly, they were afraid of the people, and their support, of Jesus; and secondly, “His hour had not yet come” – John Chapter 7 and Verse 30 and John Chapter 8 verse 20. For God, had planned, ordained, that His Son, would be slain, *on* the Passover, as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” - John Chapter 1 and Verse 29.

And so, my Fourth point, is Lamentation, Verses 41 - 44.

Now, it is poignant, in so many ways, for me, that whilst the crowd, was rejoicing, Jesus was weeping ! Now this, as you may already know, is the second occasion, on which, Jesus, wept openly, the first being, at the tomb of Lazarus - John Chapter 11 and verse 35. There, He wept quietly, but here, He uttered, a loud lamentation, like one, mourning, over the dead. In this, Jesus, was like, the Prophet Jeremiah, who wept bitterly, over the destruction, of Jerusalem - Jeremiah Chapter 9, and please see also, the Book of Lamentations.

My Friends, no matter, where, Jesus looked, He found cause, for weeping. If He looked *back*, He saw, how the nation, had wasted, its opportunities, and been ignorant, of there "time, of visitation." If He, looked *within*, He saw spiritual ignorance, and blindness, in the hearts, of the people. For they, **THEY of all people**, should have known, who He was, for God, had given them, His Word, and sent His messengers, to prepare the way.

And then, as He looked *around*, Jesus saw, religious activity, that accomplished, very little. For the temple, had become, a den of thieves, and the religious leaders, were out, to kill Him. Yes, the city, was filled, with pilgrims, celebrating a festival, but the hearts, of the people, were heavy, with sin, and life's burdens.

And then, as Jesus looked *ahead*, He wept, as He saw, the terrible judgment, that was coming, to the nation, the city, and the temple. For in 70 A.D., the Romans, would come, and, after a siege, of 143 days, killing 600,000 Jews, and taking thousands more, into captivity; they would then, destroy the temple, and the city. And Why, WHY did all, of this happen ? Because the people, did not know, that God, had visited them ! "He came to His own, and His own, did not receive Him" (John 1:11).

My Friends, just as Jonah looked on Nineveh, and hoped, it would be destroyed (Jonah 4), **Jesus, looked at Jerusalem, and wept, because it had, destroyed, itself.**

To Conclude : The scriptures tell us, that Jesus, remained in the temple, and used, it as a gathering place, for those, who needed help. He healed many, who were sick and afflicted, and He taught, the people, the Word of God. The hypocritical religious leaders, tried, to destroy Him, but His hour, had not yet come, and they could not, touch Him. In the days, that followed, they argued with Him, and tried to catch Him, in His words, but they failed. But, BUT, when His hour came, He would surrender, to them and they would crucify Him.

My friends, on this Palm Sunday, may we too, prepare our lives as we look towards Good Friday, and Gods sacrifice of Love, for us. May we choose, to accept Christ, as our Messiah, our Saviour and our Lord. And may we celebrate, with wonder, His resurrection day, offering new life, eternal life, for all. And, AND, may we Lament, pray for, speak to those, who have not yet, recognized, the coming, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His love, **HIS LOVE**, for them.

Finally : on this Palm Sunday, We remember, that the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, chose to fulfill, God salvation plan, for you, for me, for our world; and that during His last week, of ministry, He would courageously, face, His enemies, and then bravely, go to the cross, to die, for the sins, of the world. May we choose, to live our lives courageously, for our Messiah, our Saviour, Our King !!

Thanks be to God, on this Palm Sunday. Amen

A Prayer O Lord our God, we worship you, for You, did not enter, your holy city, Jerusalem, on the back of a war horse, but humbly, and on a donkey. You knew, that you were surrounded, by murderers, yet you, came in peace, and by your sacrifice, you would utterly, conquer death, before the week, had passed. You, O Lord, are blessed and worthy of my praise. You have saved your people. I say, "you are my king!" ...
Jesus, I humbly, bow before you, and I will sing your praises, until your Kingdom comes, and is established, here on earth, as it is in heaven. To the praise of your name. Amen

Well, Thank You for listening. **Katy Booklet Lymm**
Hope to see again, on Tuesday,
But for now, may the blessing and peace of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and those you love,
this day and always Amen.