

Remnant Life Church
April 9, 2017
The Meaning of Palm Sunday
Easter – Part
Luke 19:28-44

READ – Luke 19:28-44

- Background of Luke
 - Most likely a Gentile Christian
 - Paul references Luke in **Col 4:10-14** and seems to link him with the Gentiles and not the Jews he lists in the letter
 - We also consider this since much of what Luke wrote had to do with Jesus' interaction with people normally considered outcasts in Jewish society (as he would have been too as a Gentile)
 - Specifically, he recounts that Jesus is sent for the Gentiles as well as the Jews – the prophet Simeon speaking over the baby Jesus in the temple - *A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.*” (**Luke 2:32**)
 - Moral outcasts - the woman who anointed Jesus' feet in Simon the Pharisee's house (**7:36-50**)
 - Social outcasts – Zacchaeus the tax collector (**19:1-10**)
 - The economically deprived – the place of honor at the table (**14:12-14**)
 - Luke recounts the story of the rich man and the beggar Lazarus destroying the Jewish belief that wealth was a sign or indication of divine favor (**16:19-31**)
 - The Good Samaritan – the Jews hatred for the Samaritans (descendants of the Assyrians – (**10:29-37**))
 - Paul also calls Luke a physician and while we see no additional evidence in the Bible there is no reason to doubt Paul
 - Historical extra-biblical writings regarding Luke tell us that he was from Antioch, Syria, never married, and died in Boeotia, Greece at the age of 84
 - He was not an eyewitness to the events he wrote about but states that he *“...carefully investigated everything from the beginning, ...”* (**1:3**)
 - Certainly his time with Paul would have influenced his writing as well
 - Luke traveled with Paul to Rome as he refers to “we” in his account of the trips
 - Paul also names Luke as one of his traveling companions (**Col 4:14**)
 - Luke is also cited as the author of the book of Acts
 - Similar greeting, writing style, and use of the language
 - Many think the books were written originally as one
 - These two books represent the most by one author in the NT in terms of verses (Luke: 2157 – Paul: 2071)

- (v 28) Jesus is entering Jerusalem having just come from Jericho (about 19 miles away)
 - Healed blind Bartimeus
 - Spoke with Zacchaeus
 - Gave the parable of the 10 coins (Luke 18:35 – 19:27)
 - During this time of the last week Jesus is, by all accounts, staying at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in the town of Bethany a couple of miles east of Jerusalem
 - Bethphage, where Jesus sends the disciples to get the colt is a neighboring town within walking distance
 - As in all things – there is deeper meaning and significance in all that Jesus did to demonstrate the power of His Father
1. Jesus riding on a donkey (vv 30-35)
 - a. This is the only time in the Scripture that we read of Jesus riding anywhere
 - b. He walked – perhaps as a way of identifying Himself with everyone He would meet as an approachable common man
 - c. Why a donkey?
 - i. Very few horses in that area
 - ii. Only the very rich or nobility
 - iii. Horses were also for the military and associated with war
 1. When a conquering king came into a city he had just vanquished he rode in on a magnificent steed
 2. But when a king entered a city on a donkey it was a symbol of peace
 3. Jesus was not coming as king of war but as the prince of peace
 - iv. The first mention of a donkey in the Bible is found in Genesis 22, where Abraham saddles his donkey to go to Mt. Moriah to (like God the Father) offer his one and only son as a sacrifice.
 - d. Jesus had to borrow the animal
 - i. He did not own any worldly goods
 - ii. All he had were his clothes – lost them at the crucifixion
 2. The disciples put their cloaks on the animal for Jesus to sit on (v 35)
 - a. In the OT, as a sign of honor and respect, people would put their clothes on the ground when the king walked by for him to walk on
 - b. 2 Kings 9:12-13 (King Jehu) - *“This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.” They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, “Jehu is king!”*
 - c. Waving of the palm branches (John 12:13) – OT people welcoming back a victorious king
 - d. Who else would have known this to be true? – The Pharisees
- But Jesus was actually not the type of King the Jews were hoping for
 - He would enter the city as King but one of peace not war
 - He would get a crown but it would be crown of thorns
 - He would be declared King but it would be a sign over his cross “King of the Jews”

- Regardless of what the people saw or did they still weren't interested in Jesus setting up a kingdom in their hearts
 - They wanted someone to lead the revolt
 - They did not want to be under the rule of Rome but neither did they want to under the authority of God
 - This is why Luke records Jesus weeping as He enters the city (one of only two times the other at the tomb of Lazarus – the pain of Mary and Martha as well as the unbelief of the people - **John 11:35**)
 - But what must be understood as being true today just at as was then is those who did not welcome Him and fall at His feet as Savior will still fall at His feet but as judge
 - The fact is EVERYONE will profess that Jesus is Lord and King
 - But the making of that decision has eternal ramifications
 - And what determines where you spend eternity is when you make the decision to profess His Lordship
 - Before you die or after
3. Who were the people that were there that day?
- a. They all fell into one of four categories and so does everyone today...
 - i. Those who were his disciples or followers (not just the 11)
 - ii. Those watching silently – unsure and uncommitted
 - iii. Those who probably did not really know what was going on but were caught up in the excitement
 1. They had no real connection or conviction
 2. Because many of the ones crying out “Hosanna” on that Sunday might also have been the same one’s screaming “Crucify Him!” just a few days later
 - iv. Another group watching silently but with hardened hearts – the Pharisees and Jewish leaders
 - b. The only time the Pharisee’s spoke through this event was to tell Jesus to get His disciples to shut up
 - i. Why? They became concerned that the Roman soldiers would come in to quiet them down
 - ii. Jesus then tells them that actually, they are right, the soldiers will come
 - iii. But he was prophesying an event that would not occur for another 40 years
 - iv. He was warning them of the coming of Titus
 1. Titus did encircle the city of Jerusalem (**v 43**)
 2. To weaken the people through starvation
 3. They slaughtered the majority of the population including the children (**v 44**)
 4. The large portion of the wall surrounding the city, the palace, and the temple were all completely destroyed

- What was the meaning of Palm Sunday?
 1. It was to continue the Divine plan of God to provide forgiveness of sin and the restoration of our relationship to Him (**John 14:6** – *I am the way, the truth, and the life...*)
 2. It was the continued fulfillment of OT prophesy this specific one written 500 years earlier - *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech 9:9)*
 3. So that Jesus, entering as the Prince of Peace, would one day return as the conquering King of all eternity

- I offer this morning words of great encouragement but also a word of warning - do not be deceived!
 - Every person who ever lived and is yet to be born will bow to Jesus
 - Either in submission as merciful Lord and Savior
 - Or, if not, in condemnation as Judge for all eternity

- There is no circumstance, no event, no politician, no billionaire, no religion, no society or culture that is greater than our God
- The crucifixion of Good Friday is just a few days away for Jesus and He must endure it but, be assured, the Sunday of Resurrection is coming!
- Whatever it is that you are dealing with and enduring right now, God will deliver you in the perfect time according to His love for you.
- But just like all those watching that first Palm Sunday had to decide, do you believe?