

The Promise of a New King

Luke 19:28-40

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After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "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.

If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' " Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 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: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." Luke 19:28–40 (NIV)

Glory, hallelujah, praise the Lord, Amen. Say that with me. Glory, hallelujah, praise the Lord, Amen. We'll come back to that a little later.

Today is a day of celebration. It is the parade of Jesus' followers celebrating His grand entrance as the King. There are no days like today in any other place in scripture. Palm Sunday stands alone as the day Jesus allowed the people to make Him their King. Throughout His ministry He resisted this kind of acknowledgement of His place as their King. He often told people not to speak about His great miracles because He was waiting for this moment.

Jesus worked out the details of this day all the way down to the selection of colt of a donkey. He was ready to accept the praises of the people. It was the right moment for His followers to be enthusiastically excited. He was not going to deny them this opportunity. He is the King of kings. He is the Lord of lords. He is the Savior of the world.

If Jesus is the Savior then everyone has a reason to be excited. We live our lives being anything but excited and it shows. We think of excited in good ways most of the time. When we go to a parade and people pass out candy, we get excited. When the winning basket is made as the clock runs out, we get excited if it's our team. When the baby is born we get excited.

We also get excited when bad things are going around us, that excited is fear or worry. Think about what gets you excited. Is it the nervous excitement that comes with troubles? Is it the fear that causes you to run in the face of danger? Both of these result in us being in an excited state of mind and body and spirit.

Christians and sinners alike spend more time being excited about the bad things. We're nervously excited about what we can't control. We're anxious about what we don't know. We worry about the expectations of others, the challenges we face, the troubles that are coming, the problems that are chest deep.

What gets you excited, positively happy and joyful? What makes you think about jumping up and down? What causes you to start spontaneously singing? Is it Jesus or is it something else?

In the passage today our Savior is finally coming to save us. They reached the crest of the hill and could see Jerusalem. Travelers on the road are coming and going. Pilgrims like Jesus and His disciples are coming to the city to celebrate the Passover meal, remembering God's work through Moses to save the people from slavery.

Many travelers sang the psalms expecting to see God's deliverance. But it started with the disciples, the twelve. It grew to include the other followers who had seen His miracles and heard Him speak. The people from the many towns and villages where Jesus had taught them and healed them joined the singing and shouting. This was an enthusiastically excited crowd of people giving thanks for the One sent by the Lord.

Jesus knew that this was His moment to live out the prophecies of old. He knew this was the time to let the people be enthusiastically excited about His coming. So, He fulfilled the promise that Zechariah made about God's Messiah coming from the Mount of Olives on the eastside of Jerusalem. He fulfilled the prophecy that God's Anointed One would enter on the colt of donkey and not as a warrior king on a horse or a chariot. He kept the promise of the psalmist that blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. Luke 19:35-36 (NIV)

Have we grown tired of glorifying Jesus? We read this account every year of Jesus entering Jerusalem. If you're a Christian you've heard about Jesus Triumphant Entry many times over. We live in a world of never ending change. Who's the new superstar this year? Who's the next phenom? Our attention span seems to grow shorter every day.

We have an itch and we can't scratch it. We have to see or hear something new all the time. There is no loyalty in our world today. We can and do change our mind as often as the weather changes. Lately that's been about every other hour.

Somewhere along the line the desire of the heart was for something lasting. But anymore it's what every catches our eyes next. In our spirit there is a longing for something better than this constant change. Down deep in our soul there is the yearning for the truth. We want what is eternal, what is forever. We want someone who is there all the time. We need someone who will be with us in every battle. We need someone who will give this power to endure and overcome.

Our daily lives are filled with junk like challenges, hardships, and troubles. We can't get excited about anything because it's all too scary. We are searching for someone who will be with us all the time. We are seeking out someone who will give us the power to endure and overcome. When we find this person we will be excited. We will be enthusiastic.

He came into town riding on a donkey's colt. He didn't look like the one we expected, but He was. He was doing everything and saying everything our soul needed. His spirit reached out and touched your spirit. You discovered your heart's desire. Now you are ready to give everything you have to be with Him. Your voice rises in volume. You can't contain the excitement and the enthusiasm rising from deep within you. So, you join the chorus of the crowd. You offer the highest praise. You shout out blessed is He who comes in the name of Lord.

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: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Luke 19:37-38 (NIV)

Take all the junk in your life, throw it out by giving thanks to Jesus. Saying thank you is the beginning of a mind and heart change. Three words are the start of releasing mercy, grace, power, and love into the lives of every believer. Thank you Jesus. When we speak these three words with sincerity and not sarcasm there is a release of godly things in our lives. When we say with all honesty and no criticism Thank you Jesus, He releases into your life new mercies, new grace, new power, and everlasting love.

Thank you Jesus are not merely words, but are the proclamation that we love Jesus. When I say thank you Jesus, I am acknowledging that He is my Savior and my Lord. In those moments I am calling out to Jesus as the one who forgives my sins. Whatever I have done, said, or thought He has forgiven.

In those moments when I say thank you Jesus I am reminding myself and all who hear me speak that Jesus is in charge of my life. Jesus is bigger than my life, greater than my life, has authority over my life, and is empowering me for not just the moment but all the time.

It sounds crazy for me to tell you to thank Jesus when your life feels out of control. That’s the perfect moment because you aren’t in control, but you want Him to take control. Does it seem weird to think that you can say thank you Jesus and everything will be okay? The tidal wave of unrealistic expectations may still come at you, but Jesus is the only one you need to please. The challenges may still exist, but Jesus gives you the power to endure and even overcome whatever roadblock is in your way. The trouble may still come upon you, but the grace of Jesus will be more than enough however difficult the situation. We can be thankful that Jesus has come in the name of Lord.

These are not just words, Thank You Jesus. When as a believer, you speak these words you are talking to Jesus. You aren’t talking to yourself. This isn’t some psychological method of self improvement or self help. You are talking to the one who has been sent by the Lord God Almighty. You are talking the one who died and rose from the dead. You are talking to the one who spoke the world into creation. You are talking to the one who causes the rain to fall on the good and the evil. You are talking to the one who has authority and power over all things. You are talking to the one who will in the end judge everyone determining who lives forever in hell or who will dwell in heaven for eternity.

Jesus is alive within every believer. He has taken up residence through His Holy Spirit. So, no matter what you face, you are never alone. Jesus is always with you. Blessed is the Lord who rules and reigns forever and ever. Blessed is the God who lives in your heart, your spirit, your soul. Blessed are you because you are calling out His name: thank you Jesus.

Luke 19:39-40 (NIV) Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Start lifting up your voice to Jesus proclaiming Him as your Lord. Giving thanks in quiet places is one thing, but what about thanking Jesus out loud?

Every person on the road to Jerusalem was singing and shouting. There were no silent followers in that crowd. Actually, they could not contain themselves. They had to cry out their praises and thanks. Their hearts were filled with mercy, grace, power, and love. Jesus was their Messiah, their Lord, their Savior. Even if they didn't understand everything He had said and done, they had to give thanks and rejoice. Every person who heard them singing and shouting knew that they needed to sing and shout. The hope and joy was contagious. The glory and majesty of Jesus was catching on with others. The desire and the need for celebration was irresistible.

I have a hard time being silent. In a sanctuary where everyone is closed lips, the joy of Jesus comes out of me. In conversations when I hear about the power, grace, mercy, and love of God I will give thanks.

I have Jesus in my heart. He has taken over my spirit. He dwells in my soul. I want my life to be a reflection of His presence within me. Even when my circumstances turn dark and sad, Jesus reminds me of His mercy. As my life takes unexpected directions, Jesus shows me His grace. While I feel like I'm at the end of my rope, Jesus provides me with His power. Although, there are people who don't like me, don't want to be around me, maybe even hate me, Jesus makes clear to me His love for me.

Jesus has given His life, body broken and blood shed, for you to be forgiven and made new. You can choose to give up the junk in your life. You can invite Jesus to enter your life.

If the junk in your life is pleasing people, give it to Jesus. He will fill you with praise for Him. If the junk in your life is trying to prove you are worthy, give it to Jesus. He will fill you with grace and a new purpose. If the junk in your life is worry and anxiety about things you can't control, give it to Jesus. He will provide you with mercy and power to live for Him. If you have junk in your life, everyone has junk, give it to Jesus.

It may not be murder or stealing, but you've lied, you've dishonored your parents, you've failed to be perfect, you've used the Lord's name with disrespect, you've desired what your friends have, you've worshipped something other than Jesus.

Give your junk to Jesus. Call out to Jesus to forgive your sins. Ask Jesus to fill your heart, your spirit, your soul.

Today, we celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem as the King, the Lord, the Savior. Next week we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. Between these two celebrations Jesus was arrested on false charges. Jesus was tried as a criminal with lying witnesses. Jesus was beaten. Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus cried out from that cross, "Father forgive them." His body was broken with your sins. His blood was shed to cover your sins.

Jesus came back to life, He rose from the dead on the third day. He is alive today. The only way you can experience His mercy is to call out to Jesus. The only way you will know His grace is by calling out to Jesus. The only way you will have power in this life is to call out to Jesus. The only way for you to be forgiven and have eternal life in heaven is to call out to Jesus.

Make today the day you rejoice and give thanks to Jesus for taking away your sins. I'm going to stop talking and you're going to silently talk with Jesus. Then I will pray. During the silence if you invite Jesus into your heart, your spirit, your soul for the first time, come talk to me before you leave. Amen.