

Sermon Notes – April 14, 2019

Review

- ⇒ We've seen that Matthew presents Jesus as "the Christ" – the long-awaited and often-promised Messiah, and as "the Son of David" – the Davidic King promised in II Samuel 7. This gospel is full of references to OT Scripture and talk about "the Kingdom."
- ⇒ Last week we were challenged with God's scandalous mercy in granting full forgiveness to all who come to Him through Christ, regardless of how much they "deserve it."

Today's Text: Matthew 20:29-21:11

Our text today overflows with prophetic implications – Jesus, the long-awaited Son of David (II Samuel 7), the Messiah-King who was the subject of countless prophecies, is now presented to the Jewish nation. Jesus, fully aware of the moment, accepted the adulation of the crowd, and wept over the destruction of Jerusalem that He knew would soon come (see Luke 19). What a powerful moment!

The Healer, The Son of David, The Passover Lamb

On several occasions, the disciples look at Jesus and ask, "Who is this?" Now it is the crowd's turn to ask the same question (21:10).

This brief text fairly shouts the answer! Who is this indeed!

⇒ What do the blind men know & believe?

- They know enough of Jesus' reputation to have hope – and to ask something big.
- They know enough of Scripture to see Jesus as the Son of David and to base their plea on His identity.
- They know enough to _____ for mercy!

⇒ Jesus asks a purposeful question and invites a response: "What do you want me to do for you?" Why do you think He did that?

The King is Presented & Prophecies Are Fulfilled

Rather than arriving on a _____ as a conquering general, Jesus calls for a donkey and makes His entrance into Jerusalem on the back of a humble beast of burden in fulfillment of Scripture.

Reasons to Believe, Reasons to Celebrate
Matthew 20:29-21:11
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ The crowd responds with Scripture-based praise, echoing the words of Psalm 118, much to the consternation of the religious leaders (see Luke 19:39-40).
- ⇒ Some scholars believe that this "Day" of _____ is precisely the day spoken of in Daniel 9:25, exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes "to restore and rebuild Jerusalem." Psalm 118:22-27 is on the lips of the crowd, emphasizing, "This is the day..."
- ⇒ According to Luke (19:41-44), Jesus weeps over the city, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace..."
- ⇒ The day is much like a beautiful, warm & sunny day...yet with ominous _____ lurking on the horizon.
- ⇒ The text presents reasons to believe AND reasons to celebrate – Jesus, the famed Healer, clearly has God's power evident in Him, and fulfills Scripture after Scripture. All the signs point to Him as the long-awaited and often-promised Messiah. God has kept His promises to send a Savior to this broken world.

The Rest of the Story: What the Crowd Didn't Know

- ⇒ They didn't know that within a week the Messiah they celebrated would be nailed to a Roman cross, there to die a wicked death...along with their shattered _____.
- ⇒ They didn't know that *it was* _____ for Christ to die in that fashion and then rise again from the dead. (Luke 24:25-27; Acts 2:23)
- ⇒ They didn't know that there would be TWO comings of Messiah Jesus, the first as a _____ and the second as _____. (Cf. Dr. Michael Vlach, He Will Reign Forever, p. 358 and Luke 19:11).

Response to God's Word

- ⇒ The Apostle Paul speaks of creation groaning under the weight of sin, longing for the coming day of redemption. Do you feel the weightiness of sin in creation, in society, and in your own soul? Are you willing to be like the blind men & cry out for God's mercy – already provided in Jesus?
- ⇒ Today is there a specific area of brokenness or sin – in the life of someone you know & love, or in you – that would cause you to cry out, "*Lord, have mercy, Son of David*" – a bold prayer based on Jesus' identity.

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

What does celebrating Easter look like for your family? Is there a family dinner? Is it ham or turkey or prime rib, or dinner out? Is there an Easter egg hunt for the kids – or that just too much sugar!

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the text (Matthew 20:29-21:11) and review the main sermon points from your notes. Beyond the obvious parts of the story, what was the sermon about?
2. The two blind men in the text are getting to Jesus right toward the end of His life, after several years of stories about Jesus as a famed healer getting around. Ever wonder where these guys have been the whole time? Do you see a reason for their story to be included at precisely this point in the narrative?
3. Read the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-26 and think about it in light of the Palm Sunday account. We mentioned on Sunday that some scholars believe that Palm Sunday was Monday, 10 Nisan, AD 30 – exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes. Of course, exact historical dates often give people a headache – but what do you think about the possibility of such accuracy? Does it affect the way you read the Bible accounts, especially Luke 19?
4. Think about the irony of the two crowds in Jerusalem, the first on Palm Sunday, crying, “Hosanna!” and the second only days later crying, “Crucify.” Do you think these were two entirely different crowds? How could public sentiment change so dramatically in such a short time?

5. The NT accounts tell us that the death of Christ was “necessary.” What do these texts tell us about why it was necessary?
 - a. Matthew 26:39 – what was the “cup”?
 - b. Romans 3:23
 - c. Romans 3:25
 - d. Hebrews 9:22 & 10:3
 - e. What other texts can you think of that help explain Jesus’ death on the cross?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

On Sunday, Pastor Jay asked us to think about areas in our lives or in the lives of those we love where we might cry out to God – knowing His ability to help and demonstrating our need for Him. Have you done that? About what life or heart concern would you cry out to Him?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday – Easter Worship: April 21, 2019

“What Does Jesus’ Resurrection Prove?”

(Romans 1:1-6)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ cry out ▪ white horse ▪ presentation ▪ storm clouds ▪ dreams ▪ necessary ▪ Redeemer ▪ Judge & King ▪