

Context

- ~ The people wanted political freedom from Rome as Rome had been their governing ruler
- ~ This isn't the first time the children of Israel found themselves harassed by another nation. There were the Egyptians, the enemies in the book of Judges, the Assyrians, Babylonians and now the Romans
- ~ In 63 bce the Roman general Pompey captured Jerusalem. The Romans ruled through a local client king (Pontius Pilate) and In 18, the Roman governor Valerius Gratus appointed Caiaphas as high priest in Jerusalem.
- ~ Throughout the book of Judges, the two captivities and now under Roman rule there's a common denominator and that common denominator is they have walked away from their Lord and creator as a nation
- ~ They were the people of God, with the promises of God but weren't walking in proper relationship to either
- ~ The reason Israel has been in this mess is because they had disregarded God's word through his prophets
- ~ Rejection always carries the consequence of God's discipline and this is why Jerusalem was under the governing authority of Rome
- ~ Think back to when God liberated Israel from Egypt..it was to take them to the Promised Land and give them their own land. God didn't lead them there to simply be taken over by the Assyrians and Babylonians. That happened because they rejected God's word, God's will and God's prophets
- ~ So, now we fast forward to the gospels and the people are expecting a Messiah to come who will liberate them from political dominion
- ~ The people were expecting a political liberator but Jesus didn't come to be their political liberator but to be their spiritual liberator from sin
- ~ But we too make the same mistake. We want God to fix things and people when we're the ones that need fixing
- ~ It's easier for us to say to God in prayer, "Lord, fix this person, situation or problem." But how often do we pray for God to show us our real need and how we also have the wrong expectations of God

Outline

- 1 Preparing (v28-35)
- 2 Rejoicing (v36-38)
- 3 Despising (v39-40)
- 4 Weeping (v41-44)

Text**1 Preparing**

- ~ This Triumphal Entry was Jesus employing the method the prophets had used in the OT of getting the attention of the people
- ~ When the prophet's message was rejected the prophets employed dramatic events to get the people's attention
- ~ Examples – through God Elijah caused a drought and brought rain again, Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah, Ezekiel performed unusual tasks in Babylon to demonstrate to the people their unfaithfulness, John the Baptist baptized and pointed people to the lamb of God,
- ~ Jesus performed miracles that validated Christ as the Messiah
- ~ Nicodemus acknowledged such when he came to Jesus by night (Jn 3:2)
- ~ The Triumphal entry was one of the last statements Jesus made to capture the people's attention
- ~ This Triumphal Entry wasn't a happenstance – it was planned for
- ~ This is how God works – He plans
- ~ Redemption was a planned event
- ~ Rev 13:8 Jesus was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world –it was planned
- ~ Since eternity past God had a plan for our lives and our salvation (Eph 1:4)
- ~ *Ps 37:23 the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord*
- ~ *Prov 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way : but the Lord directs his steps*
- ~ *Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*
- ~ God prepared a fish for Jonah (Jonah 1:17), a gourd (Jon 4:6), a worm (Jon 4:7) and a scorching wind (Jon 4:8)
- ~ So we see that God is a planner
- ~ This is the first time Jesus publicly and openly welcomes praise and attention

- ~ This Triumphant Entry was a planned event – specifically there’s a donkey that’s needed, two disciples are sent to fetch, the disciples are instructed as to what to say if the owners of the donkey ask what the disciples are doing, garments were placed on the donkey
- ~ All this planning was meant to draw attention to Christ entering Jerusalem. Perhaps this display of praise like a parade for Christ is to draw attention to him when he’s crucified
- ~ Jesus said if I be lifted up from the earth I will draw all men unto me (Jn 12:32). Jesus must be lifted up just as Moses lifted the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Jn 3:14)

2 Rejoicing

- ~ This is the first time Jesus welcomed praise and worship
- ~ Prior to this when Jesus healed someone he would tell them to tell no one about it (Matt 8:4-leper; Mk 7:36-deaf & dumb man; Lk 8:56-Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from dead)
- ~ Now Christ openly welcomes attention, praise, and worship
- ~ This act of rejoicing fulfilled two OT prophecies (Ps 118:24-26; Zech 9:9)
- ~ *Ps 118:24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.*
- ~ *Zech 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*
- ~ This act of rejoicing is going to force the hand of the Pharisees. They want to destroy Jesus but don’t know how until Judas Iscariot comes to them and betrays Jesus
- ~ When the Pharisees asked Jesus to stop this praise Jesus said if these should stop praising the stones would begin to cry out
- ~ Jesus says this because creation worships God (Ps 96:11,12; 148:7-13)
- ~ Heaven worships (Revelation 4 & 5)
- ~ The others gospels tell us the crowd shouted, “Hosanna” which means Lord save now
- ~ Matthew tells us some of the crowd spread their clothes in the way and others cut down branches and spread them in the way (Matt 21:8)
- ~ The crowd also shouted Hosanna to the son of David (Matt 21:9)
- ~ Matt 21:10 says the city was moved (agitated, shaken, vibrated) from this we get our word seismograph. A seismograph is an instrument that measures and records details of earthquakes
- ~ In V38 the crowd shouts, “blessed be the king that comes in the name of the Lord.”
- ~ There were three special groups in that Passover crowd: the native Judeans who were suspicious of Jesus, the Galileans who followed Him, and the visitors from outside Judea who did not know who Jesus was (Matt. 21:10–11). Within the crowd from Judea were people who saw Him raise Lazarus from the dead (John 12:17–18).
- ~ We see rejoicing at Christ’s entry into Jerusalem
- ~ How often do we rejoice in Christ? Are we thankful for his work in our lives and his faithfulness?

3 Despising

- ~ The Pharisees always despised Christ
- ~ They were jealous and couldn’t stand to watch Christ receive praise
- ~ The proud, religious and jealous can’t stand it to watch someone else receive praise
- ~ Another reason they despised Christ is they didn’t want the Romans to punish Jerusalem because they perceived Christ as an insurrectionist
- ~ They want Jesus to rebuke his disciples
- ~ Jesus tells the Pharisees that creation is more attune to God than they are – the stones would cry out
- ~ Throughout the Old Testament we see the Israelites despising God’s laws, prophets, representatives, God’s temple and now we see them despising God’s son, Jesus Christ
- ~ The Pharisees despised Christ so much they wanted to kill him but only needed the means – Judas Iscariot, they manipulated the crowd to ask for Jesus to be crucified instead of Barabbas and they used Pilate to get their way
- ~ While it can look like Jesus walked blindly into the Pharisees trap – Jesus walked as a conqueror into this as a conqueror even though despised
- ~ While on the surface it looks like the Pharisees were the only ones despising Christ but the nation also did this
- ~ Though despised Christ was still bearing their sins on the cross

4 Weeping

- ~ Following the Pharisees despising of Christ Jesus goes to
- ~ While Jesus was praised by the crowd, despised by the Pharisees he now predicts a future judgement on the beloved city of Jerusalem.
- ~ Jesus weeps over the city because he knows he'll be rejected
- ~ Jesus in v42 says the people don't know what will bring them peace
- ~ Israel thought peace would come by being liberated from the Romans
- ~ The people wanted political peace – they wanted the surface things just the Israelites did in the OT
- ~ In Israel's journey to the Promised Land they were more worried about God being their provider than being their shepherd. David said the Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want (Ps 23:1)
- ~ We know from the gospel accounts that people showed up for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem because of the miracles he did and because he raised Lazarus from the dead
- ~ The people come to worship the King of Kings but with the wrong motives
- ~ The apostle John tells us Jesus didn't trust himself to man because he knew what was in man
- ~ John also tells Jesus came to his own and his own received him not (Jn 1:11)
- ~ So, Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because he has come as their Lord and the fulfillment of the all the OT prophecies and yet the people want a political liberator and not a spiritual liberator
- ~ Jesus' words were fulfilled in 70AD when the Titus and the Romans surrounded the city
- ~ Notice the descriptions in v43,44
- ~ So, Jesus weeps. This weeping shows us the heart of God that he cares for people and their decisions
- ~ What do we want from God? Our needs met, problems solved, relationships fixed by God or are we content with God being our spiritual peace?
- ~ Are we content with God sitting on the throne of our lives and following him, his word and his will?

Conclusion

1 Preparing

- ~ Just as Jesus was preparing for his entry into Jerusalem he's also prepared a calling for us.
- ~ His calling is for salvation, sanctification and service.
- ~ How are we preparing for Christ in our lives?
- ~ Do we daily plan for him to rule our lives? Do I read his word daily? Do I pray? Do I share my faith?

2 Rejoicing

- ~ If creation was to start worshipping God would it put us to shame?
- ~ How often do we stop in the midst of our day or in our problems and give thanks to God for his goodness?

3 Despising

- ~ We must safeguard from despising God's word and its frequent challenges to our flesh and our thinking

4 Weeping

- ~ Jesus wept over rejection of God do we also weep for lost souls?

5 People so often want their problems fixed rather than having their relationship with the Lord strengthened. This is what Israel wanted. They wanted political freedom more than their spiritual liberation from sin

6 Everyone is looking for peace and that peace is only found in Christ. Israel thought that peace was in being free from the Romans but even if they had freedom from Rome they still would've needed peace with God. Don't look for peace in having our circumstances improved. Peace is found in the lowly king riding on a lowly donkey

7 Notice the reason why Jesus weeps and predicts the cities future destruction...they didn't know their time of visitation. May we not fail to notice God's visitations in our lives? Grab the word and listen to the Holy Spirit