

Encounters

Part 6 - Encountering the Purpose of Jesus

Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet Him. They shouted,

*“Praise God!
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!
Hail to the King of Israel!”*

Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

*“Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem.
Look, your King is coming,
riding on a donkey’s colt.”*

His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into His glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about Him.

Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others^[1] about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet Him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after Him!” John 12:12-19 NLT

After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of His disciples. As He came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, He sent two disciples ahead. “Go into that village over there,” He told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?”

And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for Him to ride on.

As He rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of Him. When He reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

*“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”^[2]*

But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.” Luke 19:28-44 NLT

There were 3 types of people on the road that day...

1. Those who were following the MIRACLES.

Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet Him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. John 12:17-18 NLT

2. Those who were hoping for a CONQUERING KING.

As He rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” Luke 19:36-39 NLT

Bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, shining upon us.

Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar. Psalm 118:25-26 NLT

As they studied the Law, they discovered that the LORD had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month. He had said that a proclamation should be made throughout their towns and in Jerusalem, telling the people to go to the hills to get branches from olive, wild olive,^[2] myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees. They were to use these branches to make shelters in which they would live during the festival, as prescribed in the Law. So the people went out and cut branches and used them to build shelters on the roofs of their houses, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of God’s Temple, or in the squares just inside the Water Gate and the Ephraim Gate. Nehemiah 8:14-18 NLT

3. Those who whose hearts were HARD with UNBELIEF.

But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!” He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!” Luke 19:39-40 NLT

Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone^[k] has gone after Him!” John 12:19 NLT

Two Important Truths...

1. Jesus never lost sight of His PURPOSE.

But as He came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, He began to weep. “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.” Luke 19:41-44 NLT

2. Jesus, the Prince of Peace was coming to bring PEACE!!

Rejoice, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

*He is righteous and victorious,
yet He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt. Zechariah 9:9 NLT*

Which group do you most identify with today?

Do you need to experience this peace? What is holding you back?