

Radiant Church, March 5, 2017
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**Jesus sets his face toward the Cross
Luke 19:28-44**

Luke 9:51-52 *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.*

This is a clear statement of purpose

Mark 14:8 *She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.*

Luke 19:28-30 *And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here.*

Luke 19:31-34 *If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"* So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it."

Zechariah 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey.*

Donkeys were considered the royal steed during the time of King David
Later, kings adopted horses, and donkeys were considered unsuited

Now donkeys were considered a sign of humility

The position of a king, the character of a servant

Luke 19:35-38 *And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near - already on the way down the Mount of Olives - the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

"Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord!" (Ps. 113-118)
(Always recited at the end of a Passover feast - here, at the beginning)

Luke 19:39-40 *And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."*

Rebuke, because the Pharisees feared the reprisal of the Romans?
Or because they thought this worship of Jesus to be misplaced adoration?

The Pharisees liked very much the idea of a Messiah as King

They didn't like the idea of Messiah as God

Epecially if that Messiah didn't look like the Messiah they expected
Epecially if that Messiah differed from how they were doing things

"We're not used to people building empires on their own blood rather than on the blood of their enemies" - Eric Elves

We foolishly try to make God into a god in our own image. We want a god who is a better, more powerful version of ourselves.

We're okay with Jesus dying for us. We're not okay with dying to Jesus, or even him inconveniencing us.

We want Jesus to make our lives "better" (more comfortable, more important to other people.) Jesus didn't go to die so we could be better; He died so we could be made different, brand new.

I read the following on Thursday morning, and it broke me. I felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit telling me to read and ponder and identify with the ancient people of Israel - for I, and we are no different than they...

Deut. 8:11-12 *Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, after you gave eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them...*

We forget God when we have what we think we want

And we're quick to give credit to ourselves

Deut. 8:17 *Beware lest you say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth.*

Or we even think our gains and successes are because of how godly we think we are; how committed to church we think we are, or how often we're nice to other people around us, or how often we sacrifice our agendas in order to help someone else.

Deut. 9:4 *Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land, 'whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you.*

Moses called the people of Israel “rebellious.” To be rebellious is to be in opposition to the reigning authority. In this case, rebellious against the Lord - trying to move away from the sovereignty of God

Duet. 9:24 *You have been rebellious against the Lord from the day that I knew you.*

And Moses called them “stubborn” - unwilling to yield to God, unwilling to be changed

Deut. 10:16 *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn*

We like “come and see” part of the gospel. We do not like the “go and die.”

We want a Jesus who does not require anything of us.

But look at what was predicted and prophesied thousands of years earlier regarding what He would endure so we could be saved...

Isaiah 53 *Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with⁴ grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

We are not transgressors because we do bad things
We are transgressors because we have sinful hearts and don't really want to be changed...we really want to be agreed with

And that's why we look at the demands of what it is to follow Jesus, and we treat those like a buffet table - we pick and choose the ones we like, and ignore or even try to explain the ones we don't like.

And that's why the story of the Triumphal Entry is really a sad story
The people who praised him that day called for his execution a few days later
Because they wanted a different kind of savior to provide for them a different kind of salvation

To believe the gospel of Jesus means we have to believe God, take Him at His Word regarding Himself, us, our need, and His provision for us through Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, the perfect and forever sacrifice, and the One who lives for us today. He calls us in response to not live for ourselves, but for Him.

"Lord, if my heart doesn't learn to trust your Word when it tells me things I don't want to hear, then my heart won't accept it when it tells me things I desperately do want to hear - about your love and forgiveness. Teach me to trust your Word. Amen"