

Lesson 8 17 December 2017

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Lesson Scope: [Luke 19:28-48](#); 20

References in brackets refer to Luke 19 & 20 unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

Luke opened his Gospel with the angel's announcement of peace on earth (2:14), but now in this lesson the theme changes to peace in heaven (19:38). Jesus' ascent to Jerusalem, riding on an unbroken colt, drew a mixture of emotions among those gathered. From this triumphal entry forward, Scripture fulfilled itself repeatedly, unknown to the Jewish leaders.

The cry that rose out of our Master's emotions reveals the depth of love He had for His people. Rejected by His own and facing the cross, He tenderly taught the Gospel to those gathered in the temple. Jesus' words in 20:18 are to all men. They teach that either we in brokenness receive Jesus as our Rock and "head of the corner," or we reject His authority and are ground to powder.

When Jesus presented Himself to His people as their rightful King, many acclaimed Him joyfully. The nation as a whole, however, rejected His reign over them, choosing, rather, spiritual blindness and destruction.

Allow Jesus' feelings toward man's responses to stir your heart. Take the time to study the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in these chapters. The saying of 19:38 is also referenced in Psalm 118:26.

The authority of Christ will always be in conflict with carnal man. Christ has also given authority to men in the church and in the state. Our attitude toward this authority exemplifies our submission to Christ. May the seriousness of 20:18 motivate each one to examine his relationship to the Chief Cornerstone.

Lesson Aim: To understand the involvements of man's responses to Christ.

Theme Verse: [Zechariah 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.

Lesson Text

The Triumphal Entry

[Luke 19:29-40](#) And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called *the mount* of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, ³⁰Saying, Go ye into the village over against *you*; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring *him hither*. ³¹And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose *him*? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him. ³²And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them. ³³And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt? ³⁴And they said, The Lord hath need of him. ³⁵And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. ³⁶And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. ³⁷And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; ³⁸Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. ³⁹And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

The Tragic Rejection

[Luke 19:41-48](#) And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, ⁴²Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things *which belong* unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. ⁴³For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, ⁴⁴And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. ⁴⁵And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them

that bought; ⁴⁶Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. ⁴⁷And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, ⁴⁸And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

Luke 20:1-8 And it came to pass, *that* on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon *him* with the elders, ²And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority? ³And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: ⁴The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? ⁵And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not? ⁶But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. ⁷And they answered, that they could not tell whence *it was*. ⁸And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Luke 20:17-18 And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? ¹⁸Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Questions for Study

The Triumphal Entry

1. Why may Jesus have permitted this public manifestation of praise?
2. How does this account manifest the sovereignty of Christ?
3. What acts of Jesus' triumphal entry were the fulfilling of Scripture?
4. How could we be guilty of holding our peace as in 19:40?

The Tragic Rejection

5. What were "the things which belong unto thy peace," that the Jews had neglected (19:42)?
6. What motivated the Jewish leaders to question the authority of Christ?
7. Why is my attitude toward the Chief Cornerstone so important?
8. What does it mean to "fall upon that stone"?

Analyzing the Passage

In the Jews' mind, riding on a donkey was a mark of royalty. Jesus overcame the donkey's instinct of rebellion which came from the Fall showing us His sovereignty over creation. In Old Testament times, a donkey that had never been ridden was suitable for sacred purposes. On this day the sacred purpose was to publicly demonstrate a King coming to obtain His kingdom. The spreading of clothes and palm branches was all part of a traditional Jewish reception for royalty.

The words of the people in 19:38 not only bring to mind the angel's words in 2:14 of peace on earth, but also remind us that Christ, the King, will ride a white horse in the future (Revelation 19:11). Jesus' reference to the stones crying out challenges us that if we fail to glorify Christ, creation will not remain silent.

For the second time Jesus housecleaned the sanctuary (John 2:13-17). The people's desecration of holy things revealed their lack of spiritual fervor. In these final days Jesus had come to "preach the gospel," yet the chief leaders sought how to destroy Him.

By what authority did Jesus do these things? Was it not evident, or were the leaders totally blind? Pride fueled by jealousy creates a hardening that blinds the soul to facts. Their rejection of the Chief Cornerstone would only enhance the severity of coming judgment. Isaiah 8:14-15 portrays this rock as either a sanctuary for the believer or a rock of offense to the faithless.

Principles and Applications

The Triumphal Entry

1. Submitting to Christ allows our possessions to be used in His work (19:31). Are these things we call ours really ours? Who created them, who gave them, and what is our responsibility? Using Christ's resources in Kingdom work is excellent stewardship. Remember "the Lord hath need of him."

2. Our view of Christ affects our usefulness in kingdom work (19:30, 36). Willingness to go at Christ's command reveals our faith and trust in His providential leadership. Viewing the work as the Lord's work and testifying to others of this fact rivets in our minds the place of servanthood to which He has called us.

3. An attitude of praise must energize every believer's life (19:37-38).

The frequency of praise reveals the amount of thankfulness a Christian has for Christ's redemption. Not only does it stir emotion but more importantly praise also energizes life into willing service and faithful obedience.

4. Those who are proud desire the praise that belongs to Christ (19:39). Pride stands in contrast to God's humble creation. God receives more praise from creation than from the arrogance of man's heart. Jealousy of another's position prevents man from receiving daily blessings and future rewards. Christ's redemptive power can only be received by humble, submitted believers.

The Tragic Rejection

5. Christ is grieved by those who reject Him (19:41-44). Wept in 19:41 means "to sob or to wail aloud." What did Jesus see when "he beheld the city"? He saw souls that for generations had rejected God's commands and killed His prophets. He saw leaders teaching heresy in the name of righteousness. He saw the judgment and bloodshed that was to befall them shortly. Finally, He knew the cross was at hand and His blood lay at these people's doors. Do the same feelings stir our hearts as we view the souls around us?

6. Those who reject the visitation of Christ will be visited with His judgment (19:42-44). Rejection of Christ brings condemnation on man's soul. When man continues to reject God's messengers and His commands, he spurns his only opportunity of salvation. Judgment from God is sure and thorough upon those rejecting Christ.

7. One who is submitted to Christ attentively listens to His words (19:48). The attitude of man must be sincere if he is to hear attentively. Humility of spirit, openness of mind, and searching of heart are factors in being attentive. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24).

8. Challenging Christ's authority is evidence of rejecting Him (20:2). We say we would never challenge Christ's authority. What about Scriptural commands that we may think unnecessary? Revelation 1:2, 3 reminds us that "the word of God, and ... the testimony of Jesus Christ" is to be read, heard, and kept "for the time is at hand." Christ's authority is imparted to leaders, parents, and the church, sealing these avenues of authority too. Rejecting Christ is rejecting the most important part of

God's spiritual building, the church (20:17). What is my response to Christ's branches of authority?

9. Men who refuse to submit to Christ will someday be objects of His wrath (20:18). All men will someday face the Judge. If we reject His lordship today, He cannot use us in His kingdom. May we be broken, humbly submitting to Christ's authority so that we can receive blessings today and forever.

Important Teachings

1. Submitting to Christ allows our possessions to be used in His work (19:31).

2. Our view of Christ affects our usefulness in kingdom work (19:30, 36).

3. An attitude of praise must energize every believer's life (19:37-38).

4. Those who are proud desire the praise that belongs to Christ (19:39).

5. Christ is grieved by those who reject Him (19:41-44).

6. Those who reject the visitation of Christ will be visited with His judgment (19:42-44).

7. One who is submitted to Christ attentively listens to His words (19:48).

8. Challenging Christ's authority is evidence of rejecting Him (20:2).

9. Men who refuse to submit to Christ will someday be objects of His wrath (20:18).

Answers to Questions

1. Why may Jesus have permitted this public manifestation of praise?

The first reason was to fulfill prophecy and present Himself as Israel's King (Zechariah 9:9). Another reason was to force the Jewish leaders into action. This moved Jesus closer to the cross, and the opponents of Jesus only needed a plan, which they found in Judas.

2. How does this account manifest the sovereignty of Christ?

Jesus' use of the colt reminds us He owns all things. The calming of an unbroken colt shows Christ's power over creation. The response of the crowd reveals they recognized the authority of Christ at this time. Christ's mission to bring peace to man was proclaimed in the words "peace in heaven."

3. What acts of Jesus' triumphal entry were the fulfilling of Scripture?

Zechariah 9:9 says Israel's king would come and He would be "riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." It was customary to place garments under a man to show respect for his authority (2 Kings 9:13). The proclamation of 19:38 was a repeat from Psalm 118:26.

4. How could we be guilty of holding our peace as in 19:40?

Not allowing our possessions and time to be used for kingdom work manifests a lack of submission. An unthankful attitude for atoning power reveals a poor response to Christ. Holding our peace when others need the Gospel shows an unwilling heart for evangelism.

5. What were "the things which belong unto thy peace" that the Jews had neglected (19:42)?

God had sent messengers and prophets, yet Israel had rejected their message. The law which God gave for Israel's safety went unheeded. The promise of a Saviour was interpreted for a national ruler. The temple, God's sanctuary, had become a den of thieves and a place of festivity. When the "time of ... visitation" had come, blindness filled their eyes and hardened their hearts.

6. What motivated the Jewish leaders to question the authority of Christ?

The leaders were motivated by hate and jealousy towards Jesus' teaching. Their hypocritical sincerity to know Jesus' authority was only an excuse to trap Him in His words. They wanted to push Jesus into a dilemma so that no matter how He answered, He would be in trouble with the people or with the Romans.

7. Why is my attitude toward the Chief Cornerstone so important?

The Cornerstone is the reference point for all the foundation. How we view the Cornerstone determines our usefulness in the foundation. Refusing Christ's authority as Head reveals an attitude of mistrust, unbrokenness, and stubbornness. Allow the plumb line of God's Word to evaluate your position to the Chief Cornerstone.

8. What does it mean to "fall upon that stone"?

If we would avoid divine judgment, we must fall on the Rock, Christ Jesus, in humble submission. We must allow God to break our stubborn, carnal will. Daily we must appropriate the provisions of grace through Jesus Christ.

Summarizing the Lesson

How man responds to Christ in this life determines how Christ will respond to him in judgment. Accepting His authority now will deepen our relationship with Him. May we search our attitudes and open our hearts to the searchlight of His Spirit. Then we can receive the promise of 12:8, "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God."

Research Guide

Study Isaiah 8:14-15; Daniel 2:34-35. These passages reference the stone that we are studying in Luke 20:17-18.