

The Road to the Empty Tomb Part 2
The Road To Victory
Luke 19:35-44

Today we observe Palm Sunday. This is the day commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

"Triumphal" means to celebrating victory.

It was on that day that Jesus presented Himself to Israel as their "promised Messiah and King".

On that day many worshipped and praised Him. But as usual many others rejected Him.

Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem marks the beginning of what we refer to as "Passion week".

In just a few short days these people who should have welcomed their King ...**CRUCIFIED HIM!**

But through it all we find that on that "Resurrection Sunday" Jesus rose from the grave to live forevermore!

It is because of the victory that Christ secured that we can possess victory as well.

Jesus' left the glories of Heaven and came as a babe in Bethlehem.

Now His journey from glory to glory is entering the home stretch...Jesus' "hour has come".

Usually there is a celebration AFTER a victory. ...When a team wins the World Series, NCAA Championship, the Super Bowl or the NBA Championship there will often be a parade and celebration when that team returns to their home city.

At this point Jesus is headed into Jerusalem and there is a great celebration.

****And if you will stay tuned next week we will see that He succeeds in victory over death & the grave!**

He also succeeds in securing redemption for you and me!

There are **5 things that can be seen on this "Road To Victory"** and I want to begin with:

I. The Prophecy On The Road To Victory – (vs. 29-34)

You may read these verses and say "so what ... Jesus borrowed a Donkey and rode it into the City".

Well, friend there is more to it than that.

What Jesus did was fulfill a prophecy spoken by the Prophet Zechariah.

Notice - **Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."**

Zechariah spoke these words in 520 BC. Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians 66 years earlier.

In Zechariah's day, Jerusalem was still in ruins and the process of rebuilding had just begun.

But Zechariah speaks of a day when the Messiah would come and Jerusalem will be filled with His glory.

A vital element on this "Road to Victory" is the fact that Jesus Christ is **WAS WHO HE SAID HE WAS!**

It's the most vital element in your life.....

ILLUSTRATION: - Adrian Rogers illustrates in one of his sermons "the probability of 1 man fulfilling just 8 of the prophecies referring to the Messiah is 1 in 100 Trillion." To further illustrate he said "suppose that "we take 100 Trillion silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They would cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man."

By the way, that is just the possibility of one man fulfilling 8 prophecies.

Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies the first time He came.

And there is one that He will soon fulfill and that is the prophecy of His return!

As our Savior presented Himself to the crowd that day, prophecy was fulfilled on the "Road To Victory".

....As we move further down this road we will also see:

II. The People On The Road To Victory - In this multitude that day, there were many different categories of people present. Consider:

A. **Some Were Followers** - v29b *"He sent two of his disciples, 30 Saying, 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."*

There were many followers of Christ present on this day.

There were the 12 Disciples (who would later be referred to as Apostles) whom Jesus had chosen and ordained.

Then there were the general disciples who followed Jesus

v37 *And 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; - Some were not only excited to see Jesus they were looking for Him **before** He arrived*

John 11:56 *Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?*

The followers were present and they were praising the Messiah!

B. **Some Were Enemies** - v39 *and some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.*

The enemies of Christ were never far away.

They kept close watch on Him throughout His ministry.

They constantly attempted to trip Him up in theological debate.

I am sure there were representatives from all factions who were against Jesus: I am sure there were Pharisees, Sadducees, Chief Priest's, Scribes, and Elders.

Even today, when Jesus is present, you can rest assured that His enemies won't be far away.

C. **Some Were Skeptics** - Several times we read the word "multitude".

There was a great crowd on this day and we can safely assume that there were some who were skeptical.

They were not quite enemies of Christ like the Pharisees but they were just not convinced that He was who He said He was.

In the world we live in today the same groups of people still exist.

There are followers of Christ, There are enemies of Christ and there are some who are skeptical concerning Christ!

In fact there is probably some of each category present with us today!

As Jesus rode this animal on the road to victory there were many people present.

Fortunately, many of those people offered Him the praise that He so rightfully deserved.

We see that praise in verses 35-38. Notice:

III. **The Praise On The Road To Victory**

Here we read that a multitude of people "went before and cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

Hosanna -(Hoshana - ἁλῶῶ) meaning "help, I pray" or "save, I pray,".

This word had become a shout of praise and adoration. We can see the motive of their praise in these verses:

A. **They Praised Him For What He Had Done**- v37 *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.*

They joined together in praise of the Lord for what He has done.

I like how this is put in verse 37 - "THE WHOLE MULTITUDE, REJOICED AND PRAISED WITH A LOUD VOICE!"

Can you imagine the amazing atmosphere of worship on that day?

They all joined together and shouted and praised the Messiah for "His mighty works".

There is much that we could learn from this multitude of disciples.

It is my opinion that we have even more reasons to rejoice and praise our Savior!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are on this side of the Cross

We know that He was in fact crucified

We know that He was resurrected

We know that He ascended

We know that He sent His Holy Spirit to indwell us

We know that He is ever with us

We know that He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother

We know that we can have a personal relationship with Him

We know that one day He is coming back for us

We know that He is taking us home with Him

We know that we will live with Him for eternity

We know that He has defeated :

Sin

Satan

Death

Hell

The Grave

Soon He will split the Eastern sky:

- With a shout, the voice of an Archangel, and the sound of a trumpet, He will call His children home!

We will rise up out of this world of sorrow, We will meet Him in the air

Knowing all that we know we have ample reason to join together with a loud voice and shout praises to our King! Not only did they praise Him for What He Had Done, Also:

B. **They Praised Him For Who He Was**- v38 *Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

Notice: **John 12:12-13** *On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

The people had palms branches in their hand.

Palm branches symbolize victory and triumph.

Through Christ's death He would conquer principalities and powers; it was fitting that He should have the victor's palms laid before him.

As this crowd praised Him they referred to Him as:

"Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee"

"Son of David"

"the King of Israel"

"The King that comes in the name of The Lord"

Just like the crowd present on that day we should praise him "For Who He Is"

He is Emmanuel (God with us)

He is our Lord

He is our Master

He is our Savior

He is our Comforter

He is our Healer

He is our burden bearer

He is our friend

He is the ultimate conqueror

For all of that and so much more we ought to gather together and PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!! We have seen The Prophecy, The People, & The Praise on the Road to Victory... Now notice:

IV. The Problems On The Road To Victory - v39 *And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

Not everyone was thrilled to see Jesus on that day.

There were some who were furious with Him.

Some of the Pharisees demanded that He "Rebuke His disciples" .

***Leave it to "religious" people to find fault with people praising Jesus!

Whether the Pharisees liked it or not, Jesus accepted the praises of the people.

Whether men will praise Christ or not He must be praised.

If the multitude had remained silent, God would have given the stones a voice to praise the Messiah.

Folks, **HE IS JUST AS WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE TODAY!!!**

We have a clear description of the mindset of the enemies of Christ on the Road To Victory, Now let's see what Jesus saw on this Road. Consider:

V. The Perception On The Road To Victory- v41 *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, 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. 43 For 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, 44 And 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.*

As Jesus came near He saw the city and began to weep.

This was a time of triumph; it was a time of praiseBut now Jesus is weeping!

He wept, not because of the agony that He experienced at Gethsemane.

Instead **He wept because He knew that would be the consequences of their rejection of Him!**

Everything Christ prophesied in verses 41-44 was fulfilled less than 40 years later:

- 1) The Romans overwhelmed the city, (cast a trench about it, compassed it round, and kept their inhabitants in on every side.)
- 2) They (laid it even with the ground.) Titus commanded his soldiers to dig up the city, and the whole area was leveled, except three towers;
- 3) Not only the city, but the citizens were laid even with the ground (thy children within thee), by the cruel slaughters that were made of them:
- 4) There was barely (one stone left upon another.)
- 5) This was for their crucifying Christ; this was because (they knew not the day of their visitation.)

Jesus knew what was coming... He knew what the people would face and it caused Him to weep.

Even knowing of their rejection and the things that they would do to him in the near future, Jesus still loved these people!

What an AMAZING, LOVING, COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR WE SERVE!!!

He had compassion on Jerusalem that day and He has compassion on lost souls today!

If you have never surrendered to Him, He is longing for the opportunity to redeem your lost soul!

There is much, much more that we could consider from Christ's Road to Victory. But I would like to conclude this message by looking at:

V. The Power On The Road To Victory - v37 *And 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; 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

This "multitude of disciples" praised Him for "all His mighty works" .

Jesus had great power and ability then and He possesses that power today!

He came and the people saw His "mighty works"... but the world "hasn't seen anything yet!!!".

When He ascended back to Heaven He left us with a promise that HE IS COMING AGAIN!

And things will be much different the next time He comes!!!

The first time He came as a lowly carpenter
The next time He will come as a risen conqueror!
The first time He came riding on a donkey
The next time He will be riding a white horse.
The first time He was mocked & scorned
The next time men will fear & tremble.
The first time He came weeping
The next time He is coming with a shout!
The first time He came to redeem man
The next time He will rule all of mankind
The first time He had no money for taxes
The next time He will own everything.
The first time He came alone
The next time He is coming with Saints & Angels.
The first time He was mocked and scorned
The next time His enemies will be under His feet.
The first time He had nails in His hands
The next time He will possess a Rod of Iron.
The first time He hung on a cross
The next time He will sit on a Throne.
The first time He was judged in Pilate's Hall
The next time He will be the Judge.
The first time men put Him to death
The next time He will destroy the enemies of God!
The first time He came as a Man
The next time He will come as God.
The first time He came as the Lamb
The next time He will be the Lion.
The first time He was meek & lowly
The next time He will come in power & glory.
The first time He wore a Crown of Thorns
The next time He will wear a Crown of Crowns.
The first time He was called King of the Jews
The next time He will be King of Kings.
The first time He came as "a lowly Nazarene"
The next time He is coming as the " Lord of Lords"

Church, Jesus will one day return in great power and glory!! ARE YOU READY?? Jesus traveled that road to victory in order to **redeem** you!

This road began at Bethlehem, He was born and lived a sinless life.

On this road He taught with authority, performed many miracles, changed many lives.

He made this “Triumphant entry” into Jerusalem and was worshiped and praised by many.

Many of the same people would turn on Him a few days later.

He would face great agony in The Garden of Gethsemane. He would then be: Betrayed by Judas, Denied by Peter, Abandoned by His disciples, Seized and arrested by His enemies, Falsely tried and convicted.

He would stand and hear the crowd cry “Crucify Him”

He would then be:

Scourged

Beaten

Stripped

Mocked

And Crucified

They would place His body in a borrowed tombBut praise God He would come out of that tomb 3 days later to live forever more!!

He was then seen by His disciples and many other witnesses.

He would then ascend to Heaven to sit down at the right hand of the Father. AND HE DID IT ALL FOR OUR REDEMPTION!!

There are 2 proper responses today for what Jesus did on “The Road To Victory”

If you are lost ...GET SAVED!!

If you are saved ...PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!!!