



Palm Sunday: “Ministry as Usual” (Matthew 20:29-34; 21:1-17)

I. Jesus Healing

A. Jesus Restores Sight to the Blind

- ³⁰ And behold, there were **two blind men sitting by the roadside**, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³¹ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" ³² And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" ³³ **They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."** ³⁴ **And Jesus** in pity **touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.** (Matthew 20:30-34)
- As he went along, **he saw a man blind from birth. . .** ⁴ **As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. . .** ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. (John 9:1, 4, 6-7)

I. Jesus Healing

B. Jesus Shows Pity to Those in Need

- ³⁴ And Jesus **in pity** touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him. (Matthew 20:34)
- ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved** in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ **Jesus wept.** (John 11:32-35)

II. Jesus Revealing

A. Jesus Sees the Unseeable

- Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “**Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her.** Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” . . . ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. (Matthew 21:1-3, 6-7)

II. Jesus Revealing

A. Jesus Sees the Unseeable

- ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ **Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."** (John 1:47-48)
- ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "**You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband.** What you have said is true." ¹⁹ **The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.** (The Woman at the Well, John 4:16-19)

II. Jesus Revealing

B. Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecy

- ⁴ This took place **to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet**, saying,
- ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
**'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt,** the foal of a beast of burden.'" (Matthew 21:4-5)

- 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,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.** (Zechariah 9:9)

II. Jesus Revealing

B. Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecy

- **At the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry:** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
- ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” [Isaiah 61:1-2]
- ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”** (Luke 4:16-21)

III. Jesus Appealing

A. The Crowd Swells and Follows Jesus

- **At the Sea of Galilee:** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² **And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.** ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. (Matthew 13:1-3)
- **Palm Sunday:**
- ²⁹ And as they went out of Jericho, **a great crowd followed him** (Matthew 20:29)
- ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. . . . ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.” (Matthew 21:8, 10-11)

III. Jesus Appealing

B. The Crowd Celebrates the Coming Messiah

- ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**" (Matthew 21:9)
- **The woman at the well:** ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." (John 4:25-26)



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III. Jesus Appealing

*C. But the Crowd Follows for the Wrong Reasons

- ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.
- ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.** (John 6:24-26)

III. Jesus Appealing

***C. But the Crowd Follows for the Wrong Reasons**



IV. Jesus Reproofing

A. Righteousness Over Riches

- ¹² And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.
- ¹³ He said to them, “It is written, ‘**My house shall be called a house of prayer,**’ **but you make it a den of robbers.**” (Matthew 21:12-13)
- **Old Testament:** ²² I will turn my face from them, and they shall profane my treasured^[g] place. Robbers shall enter and profane it. (Ezekiel 7:22)

IV. Jesus Reproofing

B. Sincerity over Sacrifices

- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;**
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
(Psalm 51: 15-17)
- **Avoid religious hypocrisy:** ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly
appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all
uncleanness. ²⁸ **So you also outwardly appear righteous to others,**
but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (Matthew 23:27-
28)

V. Jesus Ministering

*A. Jesus Carries Out His Ministry Simply

- ¹⁴ And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, **and he healed them.** (Matthew 21:14)
- “aspire to live quietly” (1 Thessalonians 4:11)
- “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)
- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

V. Jesus Ministering

B. Sincere Hearts Recognize Jesus as the Christ

- ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the **wonderful** things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**" they were indignant, ¹⁶ and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?"
- And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,
- "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

(Matthew 21:15-16)

Takeaways:

- We are to carry out the plans that God has given us to share the Gospel and make disciples, not with hoopla and spectacle but with quiet and steadfast faithfulness.
- “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)
- “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Let Us Pray

