



Luke 19:28-40: The Triumphant Entry, A Parade of Praise

Opening Questions: When you attend a sports game or big event like a parade, are you more interested in the game or event taking place, or the people around you watching the event? Why? Share an experience when the crowd around you became the entertainment.

- My story about being in a July 4th parade going the wrong direction.
 - As we gather for worship what is the direction of your focus: the King or the crowd?
- [28] And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. [29] When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, [30] 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. [31] If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” [32] So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. [33] And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” [34] And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” [35] And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.
- Three reasons Jesus sovereignly pre-arranged his mode of transportation in this parade into Jerusalem:
 - 1. To fulfill prophecy.
 - Jacob spoke a prophetic blessing over each of his sons. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, so from the beginning we can see God has a sovereign plan he is architecting.
 - Genesis 49:10–11 [10] The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. [11] Binding his foal to the vine

and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. (ESV)

- **Zechariah 9:9 [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, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (ESV)**
- Although Luke doesn't specify what type of colt this is, Matthew specified in his gospel (21:2) that this was indeed a colt of a donkey.¹
- Jesus meticulously cared about the prophetic details. He fulfilled dozens of Old Testament prophecies from the prophets and Psalms during his trial and crucifixion.²

Discussion Question: do you find comfort in the Christ's meticulous fulfillment of prophecy? Why?

- **2. To show his sovereign wisdom, power and authority.**
- **God's sovereign wisdom is described in theological terms as his omniscience.**
 - Christ was not merely The King over believers, he is actually the sovereign King over everything! Beeke and Smalley assert: "In Scripture, God's kingdom may refer to his sovereignty over all things by virtue of his divine nature or to his reign in people who obey his will as his royal servants. This dual kingdom is rooted in the doctrine of creation. God's creation of all things demonstrates his sovereign kingship over them all (Ps. 95:3-5)."³
 - If God created everything, then he knows about everything. What a demonstration of sovereign wisdom and authority to create and preserve a colt of a donkey to fulfill prophecy.

¹ Matthew 21:2 states "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."

² John MacArthur. <https://www.gty.org/sermons/43-107/prophecies-fulfilled-at-calvary>

³ Joel R. Beeke & Paul M. Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology Vol. 2: Man and Christ* (Crossway: Wheaton. 2020) 1113

- The knowledge of God cannot be measured, for it has no quantity or boundary!⁴
- Louis Berkhof (1873-1957) described God's omniscience in this way: "The knowledge of God may be defined as that perfection of God whereby He, in an entirely unique manner, knows Himself and all things possible and actual in one eternal and most simple act."⁵
- "Theologians have said that God knows all things *uno actu et uno ictu* ("by one act and with one blow"), that is, all at once in a single view."⁶
 - This means by nature of creating, God embodied and created all knowledge. God does not have to learn knowledge, he possesses and embodies all of it.
- **When we gather for worship, we are not just acknowledging our king, we are seeking his knowledge, or wisdom, for our lives!**
 - **James 1:5 [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (ESV)**

Discussion Question: does God's omniscience bring your comfort? Why or why not?

- **God's sovereign power is described as omnipotence.**
 - "In the early church and the Reformation churches, the word "omnipotent" (which means "almighty" or "All-ruler") was understood to refer to God's universal reign, his dominion over all things as their Creator and King."⁷
 - If Jesus possesses all authority as our King, then with that authority comes the power to exercise that authority. This means we can look to Jesus with our problems (no matter how big or mighty) and know that he has the power to work wonders on our behalf and for his glory!

⁴ Beeke & Smalley. *RST Vol 1: Revelation and God*. (Crossway: Wheaton. 2019) 721

⁵ Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, 66

⁶ Swinnoek, *The Incomparableness of God*, in *Works*, 4:415; and Adams, *Exposition of 2 Peter*, 280.

⁷ Beeke & Smalley. *RST Vol 1: Revelation and God*. (Crossway: Wheaton. 2019) 1061

- Remember the old Sunday School Song: “My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do!”⁸

Discussion Question: What is the most encouraging reality of God’s omnipotence as a believer?

- God’s sovereign authority can be seen in his omnipresence.

- God’s active omnipotence is coextensive with his omniscience and omnipresence.⁹ They cannot be separated and they make each other possible!
- These three omni’s of God make up the doctrine of God’s providence, which is another way of defining God’s sovereignty in all that takes place on earth.
- The Westminster Shorter Catechism (Q. 11) states: “God’s works of providence are, his most holy (Ps. 145:17), wise (Ps. 104:24; Isa. 28:29), and powerful preserving (Heb. 1:3) and governing all his creatures, and all their actions (Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29-31).”¹⁰
- If we can trust that God is in control, than we must also trust that he is present in every circumstance working his providential will! This means I am not alone in my sufferings, struggles or toils (this was our study during camp last week.)

Discussion Questions: When is God’s omnipresence comforting? Are there times for a believer when God’s omnipresence is not comforting?

• 3. To make a declaration of intent.

- To ride in on a donkey was not necessarily a display of humility (as opposed to riding a horse), although the Roman conquerors definitely would have ridden in on horses. Jesus was actually claiming the Blessing of Jacob as the rightful heir of the kingly lineage of Judah. A donkey was a traditional way for a king to ride into a territory with peaceful intentions. ¹¹

⁸ Traditional Folk Hymn popularized by Ruth Harms Calkin in 1959

⁹ Cf. Kelly, Systematic Theology, 1:321

¹⁰ *Reformed Confessions*, 4:354.

¹¹ Thomas E. McComiskey, “Zechariah,” in *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*, 3 vols. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998), 3:1166

- The donkey tradition was perhaps started during the time of the Judges when Jair had 30 sons who rode donkeys as they led Israel, and Abdon had 40 sons and 30 grandsons who all rode donkeys as they led Israel.¹²
- Christ had every intention of declaring who he was as the rightful king of Israel and of all who would believe, but he didn't enter with a heart to conquer, rather to redeem.
- Don't miss the detail that the disciples covered the colt with their own cloaks. Kings did not often ride a horse bare-back, that was for the lowly. Jesus would have been willing to ride that way, but his disciples wanted to acknowledge his position of authority as king, so they covered the colt with their own cloaks.¹³

Discussion Question: If Jesus was showing peaceful intentions, why was he met with such hostility?

- There were two responses to Jesus' triumphal entry:
- [36] And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. [37] 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, [38] saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” [39] And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” [40] He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”
- **Response # 1: Worshipful declaration of God's glory and blessing.**
 - They acknowledged Jesus in honor.
 - They did this by laying down coats and palm branches, which was the ancient symbol of welcoming a king into a city.¹⁴
 - They were loud!
 - The people were not afraid to openly raise their voices in praise to God, even if it drew the ire of the religious leaders and the suspicion of the Romans.

¹² Judges 10:3-4; 12:13-14.

¹³ Philip G. Ryken, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Luke Vol. 2* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R. 2009) 333

¹⁴ *ibid.*

- They were joy-filled!
 - When you understand that we worship a good and victorious king who possesses more knowledge, power and sovereignty than any government on earth, it should bring a joyful confidence to your worship.
- **Response # 2: Criticism of the worshipers.**
 - The Pharisees were very unhappy and uncomfortable with the proceedings of the triumphal entry praise parade.
 - In every church, there will always exist a faction of the church who will look more at other worshipers in criticism than they look in awe upon Jesus as King.
 - Jesus said that the he would receive his honor as The King, the question is whether we will be part of it or not. If humans all decided not to participate in praise to Jesus, the stones they were standing on would take up the chorus. Jesus was saying in a wonderful way: “you can’t stop the praise!”
- **We may not be in a parade this morning, but we are certainly gathered to receive and honor our King in a glorious display of joy and gratefulness.**

Application Question: how do we focus more on Christ than the crowd in our worship?