

...What's Your Problem?

Holy Week 2022

Sunday April 10, 2022

Matthew 21:9-10 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!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?"

Palm Sunday ...4 Days Later, in crowded Jerusalem—12 individuals sit with the Messiah to eat the Communion Meal

Matthew 26:26-29 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

...This Passage Contains "Problem Revealing WORDS"

v. 28 ... **"for this is"**

- **There's a COVENANT!** -

"a covenant is an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship."

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 647

...Like a Peace Treaty!!

Understanding "the SIDES" in a War

- Ukraine vs Russia ...the Axis & Allies
- **The Spiritual War on Earth—** Who's on What Side? ...Satan vs God ...Humanity vs God

***...The Warfare in Our World
(personal, cultural, racial, national,
criminal, etc.) is the result of
humanity being HELLBENT on
Insisting On It's Own Way***

***...So, Jesus—What Brings You to
Jerusalem? (What Problem are you
Trying to Solve?)—I'm here to
Negotiate Peace in the War!—
Between YOU & GOD!***

○ **There's FORGIVENESS -**

²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

...the Citizens of Jerusalem weren't waiting
at the gate desperately seeking
forgiveness!!

...the Atrocious sins vs the Acceptable Sins

Rom 3:23 "...for all have sinned
and fallen short of the glory of
God"

***...So, Jesus—What Brings You to
Town? —I'm Here to Forgive Your
Sins!***

○ **There's a KINGDOM -**

²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this
fruit of the vine until that day when I
drink it new with you in my Father's
kingdom."

...a Kingdom is a "domain" or a
"realm of life" where a KING is
REIGNING!

***Jerusalem... so what's Your
Problem?—The Wrong KING
Sits on the Throne of My Life!***

"...[our] ills are grounded in a particular understanding of what it means to be human: we are each our own, we belong to ourselves. From the early political liberalism of the seventeenth century, with its language of individual liberties and rights, over time westerners began to think of themselves as naturally sovereign [we are king]..."

...If I belong to myself, then I am the only one who can set limits on who I am or what I can do. No one else has the right to define me, to choose my journey in life, or to assure me that I am okay. I belong to myself. But the freedom of sovereign individualism comes at a great price. Once I am liberated from all social, moral, natural, and religious values, I become responsible for the meaning of my own life. With no God to judge or justify me, I have to be my own judge and redeemer. This burden manifests as a desperate need to justify our lives through identity crafting and expression. But because everyone else is also working frantically to craft and express their own identity, society becomes a space of vicious competition between individuals vying for attention, meaning, and significance, not unlike the contrived drama of reality TV.” **Alan Noble**, *You Are Not Your Own* (pp. 3-4). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

“...we fear anything and everything that we perceive as a threat to our reign. ...the extent to which we have lost the fear of God will increase our fear of everyone and everything else. If someone buys the worldview that says that the chief end of human existence is personal peace, prosperity, and security, this demand for satisfying immediate felt needs will override whatever scruples one might have against abortion, divorce, abuse, or racism or just about anything else. ...There are threats to my happiness. I’m scared of . . . (fill in the blank). I need to find other people who are scared of the same things. Then we’ll express our group narcissism in chat rooms, vicariously through the screeds of favorite pundits, and then finally in the identity politics that has little concern for the common good.” **Michael Horton**, “Recovering Our Sanity”, p. 13

Jesus shows up in Jerusalem ...like it’s the SET for a Reality TV show, where everyone is caught up in creating a life for themselves!!

Matt 22:1-6 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ ⁵ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.

...HERE, the “King’s Agenda” for the Kingdom competes with Personal Pursuits of “Happiness”!!

“But what if God is against my “happiness,” as I define it, because it is shallow and short-sighted and rebels against his design? In our fallen condition we’re so befuddled that we do not really know what makes us or each other happy. God does not exist for my happiness, but I exist for his glory. And when I am glorifying God, I am also enjoying him. Worshiping God is the flourishing of ourselves and those around us. So it is only in communion with him that I find genuine satisfaction which can weather unhappy circumstances. I don’t naturally know this because I’m a sinner. Rather, I have to be confronted with God in his holiness and majesty, accept that I am the problem, and then flee to his mercy in his Son.” **Michael Horton**, “Recovering Our Sanity”, p. 14

...So, Jesus—What Brings You to Jerusalem? —“I’ve Come Dethrone YOU as King, and Set Up My Father’s Kingdom!”

The Cross is about the Greatest Solution to a Problem ...that no one seemed adequately aware of!

...Which Raises the Question--What Problem are We Most Acutely Aware of?

It is difficult to capture with words the desperate situation man is in. When Adam and Eve choose rebellion rather than obedience, everything changes. Their likeness to God is sullied, stained, polluted. Their relationship with the Father is ruined, dead. Their relationship with others is warped. Their relationship with creation is compromised. Their souls are morally twisted and broken. And their crimes against their sovereign incur a debt they cannot pay.

With one act of self-will, man's world turns black. Instead of life, he finds death, his defiance severing his soul's lifeline to God. Instead of freedom, he finds slavery, his corrupted flesh now ruling from within and a new master ruling from without, the serpent who man obeyed in the garden instead of God. Humanity is in the deceiver's grip— held captive by him to do his dark will— and the snake will not let go.

With each generation, man reproduces after his own kind—according to design. All “born of Adam” bear their earthly father’s image, now broken. They are rebels, sinners, debtors, slaves. Like sheep, they are prone to wander; like traitors, prone to revolt. In the words of the ancient Hebrew prophet, “All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.” Man, guilty of sedition against his Sovereign, the King of the universe, is utterly lost.

And the King is angry. For man this is very bad news.” **Gregory Koukl**, *The Story of Reality*, p. 96

What's the Problem that Jesus has Come to Fix?

2 Cor 5:13-15 ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

...So, Jesus—What Brings You to Jerusalem? ...Well, I'm here to put people to death!

WHAT??? ...How you going to do that?

...By Dying a Powerful Death, that I will then
transfer to them.

WHY??? ...To Liberate Them from
Themselves! —so that they No
Longer Live for Themselves!