

The Very Stones Would Cry Out!

Have you ever wished that something could talk that couldn't? I've met countless people who would give up their life savings for their dog to talk! If they got their wish, I bet the conversations would go something like this:

Human: "Please stop being so loud."

Dog: "I love you."

Human: "Why are you staring at me? What do you need?"

Dog: "I love you."

Human: "That's sweet, but do you need something specific? I'm trying to help you!"

Dog: "Food, treat, walk, outside, ball, squirrel... I love you."

There are many things that CAN'T talk that we wish COULD... and many things that CAN talk that we wish COULDN'T! 😊

- "If only this baby could talk, I'd know if I needed to feed it, rock it, change it... ugh!"
- "If only this relative of mine would stop talking so much and be less self-centered."
- Or one of my personal favorites... "I wish this plant could tell me what it needs and where to place it so it stops dying!"

Or on a more serious note...

- "This leader is making us look foolish... I wish that they wouldn't be in the spotlight so often to speak."
- "I wish my spouse would talk to me more... tell me what's wrong, tell me they love me, tell me they're proud of me..."
- "If only my friend (or sibling, spouse, family member) would proclaim Jesus as the Son of God, they would be saved..."

What a tension! We want certain things to speak that can't... we want other things to stop talking that can... and ultimately, if you're here today, you want everyone to cry

out to Jesus and declare Him as the Lord of their lives!! Fellowship, I've got good news...

Jesus (Lord, King, and Savior) will be praised by all that has breath... and if what has breath falls silent, the very rocks will cry out His praise!

This week, we are going to take a brief sabbatical in our journey through Mark to jump ahead and examine the Holy Week: a week that we examine Jesus Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, final moments with His disciples and others, betrayal from Judas Iscariot, and a brutal journey to the cross to die for our sins... but be encouraged - Sunday is coming! Our Lord and King Jesus Christ conquers the grave, defeating death and sin, and calling us into eternal life through our submission to Him and declaration of Him as the Son of God.

Today specifically, we are jumping over to Luke to start this Holy Week on Palm Sunday and admire the Lordship of our Savior, King Jesus Christ. Turn with me to Luke 19:28-40... I'll be reading from the ESV version.

We praise our Lord through willing submission of all we have! (v28-34)

"28 After Jesus had said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 Now when he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 telling them, "Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent ahead found it exactly as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?" 34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

Throughout Jesus' life, He has made His mission clear: to establish the Kingdom of God through His life, death, and resurrection. As He approaches Jerusalem, He stops in Bethphage and Bethany, two small towns outside Jerusalem, and reveals a part of His plan: the acquiring of a colt that has never been ridden. Two of His disciples are to go get the colt and inform the owners of that colt that the Lord needs it. In other

words... Jesus has a plan and purpose for this colt and for His movement towards Jerusalem.

In this short story, we see several characters. The main character of Jesus; the two disciples being sent to acquire an unridden colt; and the owners of the colt.

In this passage, we see two different titles used for the same Greek word, "κύριος": verse 33 translates "κύριος" as "owners", while verse 31 and 34 translate "κύριος" as "Lord".

1. The title of owners ("κύριος") in this passage means the "one in charge by virtue of possession, specifically of things."
2. The title of Jesus in this passage ("κύριος") means the "one who is in a position of authority."

Imagine the owners of the colt watching the two disciples walk up and start to untie their prized, unridden colt. Their response is very human... "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!" The disciples reply in a very simple but significant way - "The Lord needs it." This scene paints a beautiful picture of the mission that Jesus the Lord of Authority is on and the part that the owners of the colt are being invited to play.

The thing that the owners possessed was being requested by the Lord who carried authority to ask.

The plan that had been made by the owners for this unridden colt was superseded by Jesus' mission made visible through the disciples actions.

The colt saved for special purposes had its most special purpose revealed in this moment of the owner's obedience and the Lord's mission.

Can you imagine being invited to play a part in the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ?! The unnamed owners, the "lords of their possessions", got an eternally-focused opportunity to submit whatever was asked of them to the King of kings and Lord of lords. I can't help but ask myself on this Palm Sunday entering this Holy Week... have I submitted my "lordship of things" to Jesus' "Lordship of authority"? Am I clearly seeing God's mission and the part He has invited me to play in it? What would I have trouble giving up if the disciples came to me and said "the Lord needs it"?

1. I remember when I started tithing seriously, it was so difficult... I understood that my finances belonged to Christ, but my fear of providing for my own comfort took over... I still have to die to that every time I tithe or am called to give above and beyond the norm.
2. For many of us, it's our desire for approval or ambition. Those desires, when married to the mission of God, can produce great things for the Kingdom... but it takes a daily understanding that it is His mission, not ours; it is His success, not stemming from our efforts; it is His colt, not ours.
3. Other times for me, it's my sinful past that I'm ashamed of submitting to Jesus' purposes. Jennie Allen in a recent interview with Carey Nieuwhof said that she won't read a book that she's written after she's published it because there are embarrassing things in there about her... and yet she puts it in there so people can see how God is working through her brokenness. I want to be that confident in my Lord Jesus.

What is it for you? What would you have trouble giving up? This Palm Sunday, we have the opportunity to join the owners of the colt in submission to the true Lord of authority through whatever He asks for and humble ourselves before Him.

We praise our King by humbling our standing to magnify His! (v35-36)

"35 Then they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt, and had Jesus get on it. 36 As he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road."

What are some of the things you were brought up to do in order to communicate respect to others?

- Open the car door
- Take someone's jacket when they come in
- Offer your guest something to drink
- Mine was letting the ladies go first in line... I still find myself ushering them to go through first but often less from being a gentlemen and more because I'm hungry and want to eat!😂

We get some insight into one of the ways that the ancient Israelites honored their kings in 2 Kings 9:12b-13,

"And he said, "Thus and so he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, I anoint you king over Israel.'" Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, "Jehu is king."

It's fascinating to think that Jehu is declared as the "anoint[ed] king over Israel" and look what happens... The men make haste to take off their garments and place them under Jehu's path! What a symbol of humility and honor! The Expositor's Bible Commentary gives great insight into this action, that when one placed their garments under someone to walk over that they were recognizing someone's authority over them. Enter Jesus in Luke 19:35-36 in parallel...

The disciples lay their cloaks on the colt and the gathered people lay their cloaks on the road leading into Jerusalem. This echos the entrance of a King in which one was submitting to the authority of, similar to the Israelites and Jehu from 2 Kings. The disciples and the people are publicly declaring their recognition of the authority of Jesus! But there's a major difference in the story of Jehu and Jesus, specifically surrounding their actions after their authority was affirmed.

Jehu's next move was to assassinate a couple of individuals that were his enemies; Jesus' next move would be to die on the cross for those hostile to Him.

While we can understand this powerful statement, it's easy to be longing for Jesus to function in our lives as King Jehu and not King Jesus. What do I mean by that? Many of the people laying their garments down for Jesus were probably expecting Jesus to mirror Jehu: killing their oppressors, establishing Israel's rule and reign, solving their problems. We can do the same... we lay our garment in front of Jesus with the stipulation that He will lift us up, bless us in every capacity, and take care of our problems.

I wonder how many of the individuals laying their garment in front of Jesus truly understood what it meant; I wonder how many of us have counted the same cost. If we did, and we really understood what that meant, we would submit to following a King and Lord that calls us to become more like Him!

- It means thinking of others interests as more important than my own, like Jesus did.
- It means forgiving others who have wronged me, like Jesus did.
- It means being willing to submit to the will of the Father for me, no matter what the cost, like Jesus did.

Our Lord Jesus is the perfect example of all the things He requires of those who lay their cloak before Him! So this begs the question: if you have laid your garment before Him, what area of submission are you holding back? In what ways are you only submitting with a stipulation of what you want Jesus to be for you, not what He wants you to be for Him?

Oh, how I pray that we would whole heartedly declare Jesus as our Lord of authority! Oh, how I long for Fellowship to be known by authentic fully devoted followers of Christ! Oh, how I pray passionately that my daily life would be marked by my garment being placed before Jesus! Oh, how I pray that we would see Jesus for the King He is, not the King we want Him to be! Oh, how I hope to consistently join in creation's song of His glory!!

This song of praise becomes explicit in verse 37-40.

We praise our Savior by joining in creation's song of His glory! (v37-40)

"37 As he approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen: 38 *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"* 39 But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the very stones will cry out!"

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem, we see two responses to the Lord of authority.

1. Verse 37-38 show the whole crowd of disciples rejoicing and praising God saying *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

2. Verse 39-40 shows the Pharisees response to this praise by saying to Jesus “Teacher, rebuke your disciples,” to which Jesus replies to with a simple but profoundly powerful response of “I tell you, if they keep silent, the very stones will cry out!”

It seems fitting that the words of creation surrounding both Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and Jesus' birth contain similar language.

- "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" -Luke 2:14
- "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!* Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" -Luke 19:38

Jesus as the true Lord of authority over all creation is shown in these passages marking the start and end of Jesus' life on earth:

1. Angels and the heavenly host rejoice and praise Him as He enters the world! (Luke 2:14)
2. Humanity, those created in God's image, rejoice and praise Him as He enters His final week of His life! (Luke 19:38)

Fellowship, understanding the weight of Jesus' Lordship as the whole world pertains to Him will change your perspective on life; it will prove to you the true privilege we have as believers to praise Him! Think about creation... not just humanity, not just the angelic hosts, but creation as well:

- When trees grow and flourish, they are praising God!
- When a spider makes its web, it is praising God!
- When a golden retriever runs after a thrown ball in a field, it is praising God!
- When the waves move back and forth and the sun shines from above, they are praising God!
- When a small dandelion sprouts in an unknown pasture, it is praising God!
- When I live a life of knowing God and being known by Him, I am praising God!
- When you prayerfully walk each day in Christlikeness, you are praising God!
- And if all of these things were silent, even the rocks would cry out!

So what is Jesus saying in verse 40? That if none of these things (the people, the angels, creation that has breath) shout His praise, the rocks will cry out!

- His Lordship is not determined by the praise of mankind or lack thereof!
- His rule and reign over the heavens and the earth will be praised.
- That creation so anticipates the Kingship of Jesus, and submits to the One who created its very nature, that even if Jesus rebuked the disciples, the inanimate objects of creation would cry out His praise!!!

There's a decision that each of us have to make this morning and this week in terms of the Lord of authority, Jesus Christ.

- You can lay your cloak at His feet, rejoicing and praise His mighty name! Whether for the first time or the 100th, He is worthy of it.
- You can take on the mind of the Pharisees in verse 39, turning an active blind eye to the works of Christ right in front of you... although I would plead with you this morning to not do that.

Here is the comfort, Fellowship Dallas, that even if we don't... even if we all lost our voices today and weren't able to talk for the rest of our lives... even if persecution comes and we are silenced and suppressed... the very rocks will cry out in His name, for His praise, to His glory!

Questions to Consider:

Jesus (Lord, King, and Savior) will be praised by all that has breath... and if what has breath falls silent, the very rocks will cry out His praise!

Here are some questions to pray about and wrestle with as you leave here today.

1. Are there ways you need to submit your "lordship of things" to Jesus' "Lordship of authority"?
2. Have you authentically laid your garment down in front of Jesus for Him to direct your steps?
3. What are some of the ways that you can join creation's song of praise to Jesus today, this week, and moving forward?

Post Response Song:

The thing is that many of those voices praising Jesus when He entered Jerusalem did fall silent. This Holy Week, we will see the silence of Jesus in His accusations; the silence of His disciples to stand for Him; the silence of Barabbas as Jesus took His place; the silence that joined Jesus on the cross in between strained breaths... and yet, despite all these bouts of silence, Jesus' words remain true:

Jesus will be praised by all that has breath... and if what has breath falls silent, the very rocks will cry out His praise! How will you join in creations song this week?



KING ON A CROSS

JOURNEYING WITH THE KING TO THE CROSS



JESUS (LORD, KING, AND SAVIOR) WILL BE PRAISED BY ALL THAT HAS BREATH... AND IF ALL THAT HAS BREATH FALLS SILENT, THE VERY STONES WOULD CRY OUT!

**WE PRAISE OUR LORD THROUGH WILLING SUBMISSION OF ALL WE
HAVE!**

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."

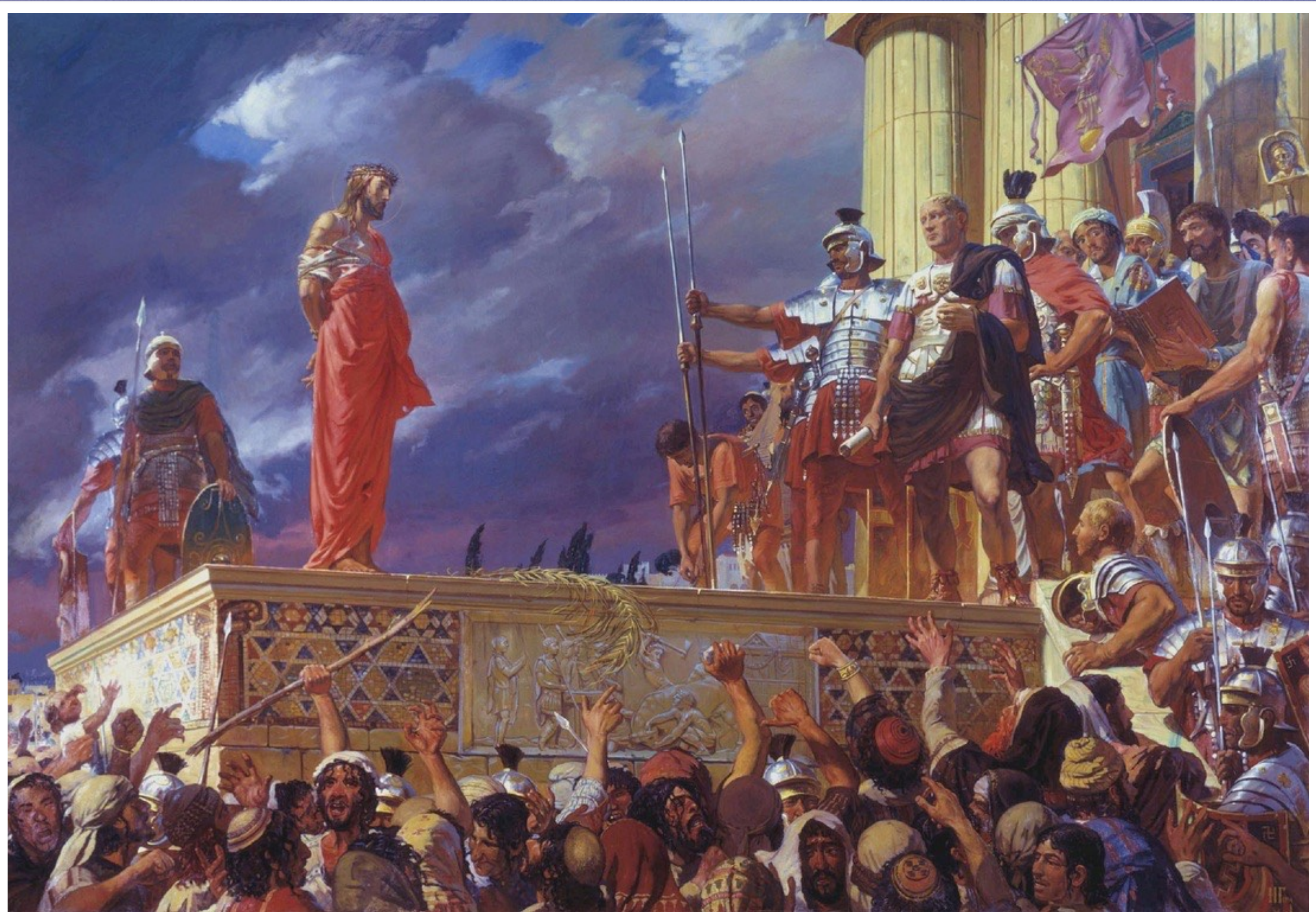
LUKE 19:28-34 (ESV)



"Κ'ΥΡΙΟΣ" – LORD

**A. OWNERS – “THE ONE IN CHARGE BY VIRTUE OF POSSESSION,
SPECIFICALLY OF THINGS.”**

B. JESUS – “THE ONE WHO IS IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY.”



**WE PRAISE OUR KING BY HUMBLING OUR STANDING TO MAGNIFY
HIS!**



**WE PRAISE OUR SAVIOR BY JOINING IN CREATION'S SONG OF HIS
GLORY!**







JESUS (LORD, KING, AND SAVIOR) WILL BE PRAISED BY ALL THAT HAS BREATH... AND IF ALL THAT HAS BREATH FALLS SILENT, THE VERY STONES WOULD CRY OUT!

QUESTIONS TO PRAY ABOUT AND CONSIDER:

- 1. ARE THERE WAYS YOU NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR “LORDSHIP OF THINGS” TO JESUS’ “LORDSHIP OF AUTHORITY”?**
- 2. HAVE YOU AUTHENTICALLY LAID YOUR GARMENT DOWN IN FRONT OF JESUS FOR HIM TO DIRECT YOUR STEPS?**
- 3. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT YOU CAN JOIN CREATION’S SONG OF PRAISE TO JESUS TODAY, THIS WEEK, AND MOVING FORWARD?**