

Morning Worship

March 20, 2016

Worship Leader — Tim Waters Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Chorus # 440 "In the Presence of the Lord" Tim/People

Offering/Worship Prayer Bill Schottel

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Marcia Hart

Missions Moment *Joshua Carter: Now for Something Different*

Anthem "Open Up the Heavens" Worship Choir

Hymn # 438 "Heaven Came Down" Tim/People

Hymn # 424 "Heavenly Sunlight" Tim/People

Chorus # 23 "*God Is So Good*" Tim/People

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading Allan/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 305 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" Tim/People

Chorus # 457 "Lord, Be Glorified" Tim/People

Will You Welcome Him?

Luke 19:28-44

There's something funny about watching professional people mess up. It's like watching movie bloopers. Many times these bloopers make it through the final cuts and show up on the screen. For example, in a movie starring Jack Nicholson, he walks past an automatic teller machine -- the only problem is that the movie is set in 1948 -- decades before ATMs!

In *Days of Thunder*, Tom Cruise suffers a racing injury with an interesting symptom. When he first goes to the hospital, he has a red ring around his right eye. Later, the circle is seen around the left, and then even later it moves back to the right eye.

And, in another movie, the characters take a ferry ride from Detroit to Racine, Wisconsin. The trouble with this is, no such ferry exists. And even if it did, you would practically have to be Magellan to navigate the Detroit River, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan.

Perhaps some of the people in the crowd on that first Palm Sunday thought that they were witnessing a bloop. This wasn't exactly how they thought it was going to work out. In their minds, the script wasn't followed the way they thought it should have been. As we will see, however, Jesus followed the script perfectly. Jesus is headed to Jerusalem. Luke makes it clear that there is nothing that will get in His way. Even though He has stopped and ministered to people, He has never lost sight of His final goal. As we come to this passage, we see four ways in which we can welcome the King this morning.

1) Welcome Him with Obedience .

Notice in Luke 19:28 that the text says, "...He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem." I picture Jesus walking ahead of the disciples, more determined than ever to enter the city of David. This is why He had come. It's almost as if He couldn't wait to complete His job. The disciples may have been following rather reluctantly; perhaps they were even dragging their sandals. They knew very well that their Master was already under the sentence of death by the Jewish leaders.

Luke 19:29 tells us that Jesus and his disciples arrived at Bethany, which was just two miles east of Jerusalem. John 12:1 indicates that He was there six days before Passover, which would have been on a Sabbath. According to my harmony of the gospels, after sunset He was invited to the home of Simon the leper, where he met with the risen Lazarus and was served a meal by his sisters. After supper Mary anointed His feet with expensive burial oil.

The next day was Sunday and Jesus began His final walk to Jerusalem. At the hill called the Mount of Olives, He called for two of His disciples to do a special assignment for Him. The Mount of Olives is a place of great significance. According to Zechariah 14:4, the Messiah was to appear on this mountain. Interestingly, during His last week on earth, Jesus spent His nights there. It's also where Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse, where He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and from where He ascended into heaven (see Acts 1:12).

In verses 30-31, the two disciples are told to "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Veres 32-34 tell us what happened: "Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as He had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'"

a) Jesus was specific .

Jesus spells it out for them very **specifically**. Somehow He knew all about the colt that would be tied up. Matthew tells us that the colt was a donkey and that it was with its mother. The disciples are instructed to bring both of them, perhaps to help the colt not be so wild.

These animals were quite expensive, and we see in verse 32 that there were at least two people who had gone together to buy these donkeys. In our culture today, it would be like someone coming up to a bright red convertible Porsche, opening the door, starting the car and driving away. When the owner comes running outside you would just say, "The Lord needs it."

Some cultural background helps at this point. According to a custom called angaria, a dignitary could procure use of property for personal reasons. It would be like a president coming up to you and telling you that he needed to use your car.

b) Jesus fulfilled prophecy .

Another important point to make is this. When the disciples were sent to get a colt, Jesus was putting into place yet one more very specific **prophecy** about who He was. In Zechariah 9:9, which was written some five hundred years earlier, we read, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

c) Jesus sent a message .

Now, keep in mind that many of the followers of Jesus were hoping that the Messiah would come with power and overthrow the Roman government. The one who raised Lazarus from the dead could certainly defeat the Romans. As they bowed down to Rome, they longed for a warrior king who would come on a great white horse, like King David did one thousand years earlier when he wiped out the Philistines. You can imagine the confusion in their minds when the people saw their Messiah ask for a baby donkey.

Jesus was about to enter the city of David not as a warrior Messiah who would physically conquer the Roman army, but as the prophetic Prince of Peace who would seek to conquer the spiritual hearts of people. Many in the crowd would have understood the message behind the symbolism.

While the disciples obeyed without asking any questions, we can't help but wonder what was really going **through their minds**. They could have been amazed, once again, that everything was just as Jesus said it would be. Or, they could have wondered what went wrong with the script. You may recall that shortly before this, the disciples were arguing about who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom. They were hoping Jesus was going to set up His cabinet and begin His reign in Jerusalem. But, instead of ruling, the disciples find themselves running errands and saddling donkeys, not marching in places of honor. Nevertheless, they obeyed.

Are you and I as quick to obey as the disciples were - even when you don't understand everything that's going on? When you discover clear commands in the Bible, do you follow or do you falter? Do you need to own up for any deliberate deeds of disobedience right now? If so, do it. Determine to welcome the king with an obedient heart. John 14:15 reminds us that if we say we love Jesus, then we will obey what He commands.

2) Welcome Him with Gifts .

The first way we can welcome Jesus this Palm Sunday is by our obedience. The second way is by welcoming the King with our gifts.

a) The colt .

There were at least three gifts given that day. The **first one was the colt**. The owners didn't question the disciples after they were told the colt was for Jesus. Maybe they had heard of Jesus before and were happy to give their possession away. They gladly gave Him what rightfully belonged to Him anyway. As the Creator, Jesus has every right to possess what is ultimately His. Someone has suggested that the owners may have been laughing to themselves because they knew that this little colt had never been ridden before and would give the rider quite a ride!

Not only did Zechariah prophecy about the Messiah riding a colt, the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey brought back memories of King Solomon's procession to Gihon in 1 Kings 1:38-39: "...they put Solomon on King David's mule...the priest anointed Solomon...then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted..."

b) Their robes .

Verse 35 tells us about the second gift that was given to Jesus. The disciples put **their cloaks** on the colt as a saddle for Him and helped Him get on. Verse 36 says that, "As He went along, people spread their cloaks on the road." They willingly took off their outer garments and laid some of them on the colt and others were placed on the road in front of Jesus.

Can you imagine what all this commotion would have done to the colt? Remember, it had never been ridden before and now Jesus was on its back, the crowd was shouting, and cloaks and palm branches were being laid in front of it as it walked down the hill toward Jerusalem.

The laying of cloaks on the road would be like rolling out the red carpet for someone today. In 2 Kings 9:13, people spread cloaks under King Jehu as he walked on the bare stairs. The people recognized Jesus as royalty and gave Him the honor afforded a King.

c) The palm branches .

That leads to the third gift - the laying of **palm branches** on the road. Luke doesn't mention this detail but Matthew 21:8 tells us "...others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road." This was a common way to welcome a victorious King when he would return from battle. These palm branches were also a symbol of joy and victory and were placed on graves as a sign of eternal life. Since they often grew out in the desert near water, palm trees were a sign that life-giving activity was near. By laying palm branches on the road, the people were signifying that Jesus was the victorious King who gives eternal life to those out wandering in the desert of life.

The gifts of the colt, the cloaks, and the branches all point to who Jesus is. What started out as a Jewish feast is now turning into a Messiah celebration. The colt was expensive, the cloaks were essential, and the branches were an expression of joy. Friend, what can you give to welcome the King today? Is He asking you to give something that is expensive? Is He longing for you to give something that you consider essential? Or, have you been holding out on an expression of joy? If you want to welcome the King, you can do so with your gifts. While there is nothing we can do to earn our way to heaven, or nothing we can give to impress Jesus, our giving does demonstrate our love and devotion.

3) Welcome Him with Praise .

a) Preparation became celebration .

The followers of the King welcome Him with obedience and with their gifts. We see next that they welcome the King with their praise. If they started with **preparation** they now break out into **celebration**. In verse 37, we read: "When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:"

The language suggests that it was more than just the 12 disciples who were praising God. At this point, there were many followers of Christ, and as they move down the mountain, the city of Jerusalem comes into view, causing them to get even more excited.

The people broke out into a great spontaneous outpouring of praise. Sadly, however, these same vocal cords with which they praised God for the Messiah's entry would be used just a few days later to scream, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

b) Adoration became declaration .

But for now, they shout out in verse 38: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" This is a quotation from Psalm 118. The phrase comes in the name of the Lord means that Jesus is coming according to the promise of God. This Psalm speaks of the coming Messiah and was sung out loud during the Passover meal. By singing this Psalm, the followers of Christ are declaring that Jesus is the sent King who comes with the very authority of God. Matthew 21:9 tells us that they included the word, "Hosanna" which means save now. There was a feeling of celebration, exaltation, and adoration for what they were anticipating would come to pass.

c) Rebuke became rejection .

As the crowd is praising God loudly, the Pharisees come up to Jesus in verse 39 and say, "...Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" They knew that the crowd was declaring Jesus as the Messiah and so they tell Jesus to reject the claim and to rebuke his followers. These claims are **offensive** to the religious leaders.

It's easy to love the answer Jesus gives in verse 40: "I tell you...if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." If the disciples do not speak, creation will. Just as Jesus calmed the wild colt, so too He can command an inanimate object like a rock to praise Him because He is the creator of all things. Or, to put it another way, Jesus is saying, "If I stop my disciples from singing Psalm 118, then you're going to hear a literal 'rock concert!'"

Instead of **rebuking the disciples**, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees by implying that the rocks know more about what is taking place than they do! By the way, in effect this was literally fulfilled when we read in Matthew 27:51, that after Jesus died, "...the earth shook and the rocks split." The rocks responded to Jesus even though the Pharisees didn't.

How are you doing at welcoming the King with praise? Do you have moments in your schedule in which you stop and break out into adoration? Do you start and end your day with praise and worship? When you come here on Sundays to worship collectively with others is it the culmination of a week of personal worship experiences or is it your only time of praise? Friends, God can make the stones cry out -- but He'd rather have men and women and boys and girls who worship Him in spirit and in truth, spontaneously, loudly, and regularly.

4) Welcome Him with Faith .

Jesus is longing for people to welcome Him with obedience, with gifts, with praise, and finally, with faith. As Jesus makes His way down the mountain, he sees the entire city of Jerusalem in a panoramic view. The city was stunning in its beauty with shining

white buildings and the gleaming gold of Herod's temple. But Jesus saw it with a different vision. He was coming not be respected but to be rejected.

As we try to put ourselves back in that day, we see that the disciples' preparation led to celebration. Now, sadly, the mood shifts to one of lamentation. Look at verse 41: "As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it."

a) Jesus didn't boast in victory.

We may be tempted to rejoice in Jesus' victory over the Pharisees. But Jesus doesn't gloat; He weeps. His interest is not in winning arguments but in winning people. The word "wept" means "to burst into tears, to weep out loud, to sob deeply." This was more than just a tear streaming down His cheek. This same word is used in Mark 5:38 to describe how family members were crying over the death of a young daughter when it says they were "crying and wailing loudly." While everyone else was shouting joyfully, Jesus was crying because of the hard hearts of people.

b) Jesus wept for the lost.

Jesus was not weeping because He was going to suffer and die. No, He was weeping for the lost. He wants people to exhibit faith and trust Him as their Lord and Savior. He wants this so much that He breaks out into loud wailing when people choose to go their own way.

Jesus had offered salvation to the people, but they rejected it. As a result, they have lost out on real peace. In these verses, Jesus is looking at the future and sees some really bad things in store for the City of David. His chilling prophecy became reality in 70 A.D. when Titus and the Roman legion surrounded Jerusalem, built embankments around it so no one could escape, and besieged the city for 143 days before turning it into a pile of rocks. Over 600,000 adults and children were slaughtered. The temple was totally destroyed and set on fire.

All this took place because they "did not recognize God's coming." Friends, can I talk straight with you this morning? There is a very clear principle here in these words that are dripping with the tears of Jesus. If you and I do not recognize God's coming in the form of the Lord Jesus and put our faith in Him, we will be exposed to judgment. If you reject Christ, you will pay the consequences.

This does not bring Jesus any pleasure. It breaks Him up. It brings Him pain. He is deeply moved and choked up when He thinks about you not responding to Him in faith. Ezekiel 33:11 reveals God's heart toward you: "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Conclusion

As Jesus breaks out into tears about the coming judgment for those who do not turn to Him in faith, I see two aspects that should motivate us to put our full faith and complete confidence in Christ for forgiveness of sins.

-His tears reveal His heart of compassion toward you. Romans 2:4 says that God's kindness can lead you to repentance. As you focus on his tears, allow His kind heart to melt away your hardness and turn to Him.

-The coming terror reveals His holiness. Earlier in Luke's gospel, in chapter 16, a rich man dies and goes to hell. As he deals with the terror and torment of the eternal fire, he begs for someone to go back and warn his family members before its too late. If you're not moved by the tears of compassion, maybe you'll be motivated to repent because of the terror of the coming judgment.

Which one will spur you on to welcome the King with obedience, with gifts, with praise and with faith this morning?

There is Rembrandt painting of the face of Christ that is very captivating. If you cover one of Christ's eyes His face has a sparkle of joy and hope. But if you cover the other eye, He looks like He is about to cry. And if you try to look at both eyes at the same time, you will see both emotions: first one, then the other, then mingled in a beautiful yet tragic expression. That's the face of Christ on Palm Sunday. In one eye we see the sparkle: "I am the one who has come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna." But in the other eye we see a tear: "There will be no peace and only the terror of my holy judgment for those who miss the day of my visitation."

Do you know what the biggest blooper of all time is? The biggest blooper takes place when individuals decide to not put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Friend, don't put off the decision any longer. Welcome the King into your life today.

Don't Make A Blooper!

Called To Follow Jesus

As you well know today is Palm Sunday. It marks the day that Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem. It was the beginning of the last week that He would spent as a man on this earth among His disciples. On that road to Jerusalem Jesus was traveling toward His death, burial and glorious resurrection. Traveling the same road will lead us to heaven if we are willing to follow in His footsteps.

Notice first that it was a road of humility. It tells us in Matthew 21 that Jesus sent two disciples into the opposite village where they would find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. They were to loose them and bring them to Him. If anyone said anything to them, they were to say, "The Lord has need of them," and immediately they would be sent with them.

Normally we like to see our hero's enter with a blaze of glory. We like it when the good guy makes a grand entrance. As Jesus rode into town there where many who had that thought in mind. But the Kings of kings chose the road of humility. He came riding into town on the back of the colt of a donkey. And it was a borrowed one at that! Jesus did not come into this world with wealth, but He came in poverty. Sometimes we lose sight of that ourselves. We love and desire the blessings of God, but do we really want to follow Jesus on this road of humility? The road of humility is the road that says I will live like Christ lived, I will strive to be conformed to His image. The Jerusalem road is a road of humility. We are called to follow Jesus.

This road was also a road of fulfillment. Matthew 21 says that all this was done to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). That Jesus entered the city on the colt or that it was right where Jesus said it would be was not by chance or a lucky guess. It was all part of fulfilling the divine plan of Almighty God.

Jesus traveled down that road of fulfillment knowing that it would lead to His death on the cross. He also knew that He would bring salvation and eternal life for us with the Father in heaven. We must be willing to travel down that road of fulfillment with Jesus. Too many times we look down the road and see where it is leading. Sometimes it leads where we in our flesh do not want to go. But we need to follow Jesus down that road. He looked down and saw that it meant suffering and dying. He traveled down the road to fulfill the will of the Father.

It was a road of submission. Jesus' purpose was to do the will of God. In the Garden He prayed, "not My will, but Your will be done." Let us pray that God's will is done in our lives and that He is glorified. It was a road of destiny. What is your destiny in life? Jesus stayed on the road knowing it would lead to His death and our life. We must stay on His road. It is the only one that leads to heaven.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Isaac Waters,
Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 23

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 24

Food Pantry Day

W Team.....6:30 pm

Friday, March 25

Good Friday Service

.....6:30 pm

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Happy Easter!

Easter Breakfast 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ????, Ken Nice

Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: Isaac Waters

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 30

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 31

W Team.....6:30 pm

New Addresses:

Elvera Crow

3420 Messanie Street Apt. 2B

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Nikki Garber

1303 Northwood Drive, Apt. 1
St. Joseph, Missouri 64505

Up-Coming Events.....

March 20 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting

— Food Pantry Collection Day

March 25 —Good Friday Service—6:30 pm

March 27— Breakfast—8:30 am

— Easter

— Diversicare 2:30 pm Canceled

April 8-9 — WMU Annual Meeting @ Midwestern

April 16 — Keyboard Festival 9:00 am

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight.

**Wednesday Night Prayer
and Bible Study**

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Fellowship Dinner and
Business Meeting
Today, March 20 at Noon

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

***Good Friday
Service***
March 25, 2016
6:30 pm

Easter Schedule

Please remember that we will have an 8:30 am breakfast at the church on Easter Morning, Sunday, March 27. It will be followed by the regular Sunday morning schedule. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the hallway.

Immanuel Baptist Church Spring Revival

6920 Ollmeda Street

St. Joseph, Missouri

April 1-3, 2016

April 1-2 April 3

7:00 pm 10:45 am

With Country Singer/Songwriter

Dale Johnston

Keyboard Festival

April 16th

Calvary Baptist Church

9 am—Noon

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®



North American
Mission Board

Goal: \$70 million

Church Goal: \$ 1800.00

So Far: \$ 925.00

For the Record-

Attendance: March 13, 2016

Sunday School.....	53
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	55
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	56

Children's Worship.....	12
Sunday Night	12
Wednesday Night	14

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget..... \$ 2,040.52
 Offering Received... \$ 1,247.35
 Annie Armstrong.....\$ 925.00

Offering Received by Mail:

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

George Burgess
 Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
 05...Sharon Yarbrough
 13...Tim Ford
 16... Don Sharp
 16... Aleana Lane
 20... Betty Campbell
 20... Lester Buck
 27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
 March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

Sharon Waters and Family
 Mike Green—recovery
 David Schottel—recovery
 Ken Nice—surgery recovery
 Joyce and Tim Izer—pray for healing
 Alicia McKinnon—healing
 LoLeta Middleton—eye infection
 Bill Schottel—healing
 Maxine and George Ferbert
 Betty Anslinger—surgery recovery
 Sue Higgins—regain strength
 Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
 Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
 Bill Haskins—strength
 Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sisters
 Grant Schottel—advanced training
 Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
 Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew

Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Louanne Laurence Dorothy Post
Allen Jennings Ann Riddle
Jim Winans Jozy Winans
Nellie Reynolds Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Susan Patten Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Keon McKahan Dorothy Post
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders

Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
