

A DAY OF APPLAUSE

Palm Sunday, 2022
Luke 19:28-44
April 10, 2022



PALM SUNDAY: The Backstory

Luke 19:11 (NIV) says *While they were listening to this [Jesus' encounter with Zaccheus], He went on to tell them a parable, because He was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.*

Luke 19:28 (NIV) *After Jesus had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As He approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'*"

Zechariah 9:9 (NIV) *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."*

Luke 19:32 (NIV) *Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as He had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."*

LESSONS FROM PALM SUNDAY

RESPONSE #1 - Jesus' arrival was greeted with deserved JOY.

Luke 19:35 (NIV) *They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As He went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ 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: ³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

RESPONSE #2 - Jesus arrival anticipated OPPOSITION.

Luke 19:39 (NIV) *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" ⁴⁰ "I tell you," He replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

Luke 6:46 (NIV) *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

RESPONSE #3 – Jesus' arrival produced TEARS.

Luke 19:41 (NIV) As He [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it...

John 11:32 (NIV) When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

John 11:34 (NIV) "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," He said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

Luke 19:41 (NIV) As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

What caused Jesus' tears?

1. The cheering crowd did not recognize His PURPOSE.

2. The cheering crowd refused to accept His TERMS.

Genesis 3:1 (NIV) He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ... ⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Romans 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. The cheering crowd did not realize His arrival would bring JUDGMENT.

2 Peter 3:3 (NIV) First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved

for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

*Church is finally over; I'm headed for the door.
The sermon was inspiring like hundreds were before.
The choir sang the anthem the best I've ever heard.
And all the people listening were blessed and even stirred.*

*The invitation given was earnest, warm and strong,
While all the congregation joined in the final song.
I almost was persuaded to let the Savior in,
But church is finally over; I've turned away again.*

*Church is finally over; I feel almost the same.
I guess I'll wait till next time to call upon His name.
They say He's very patient, longsuffering and kind.
His arms are always open and those who seek shall find.*

*I've heard the gospel story until I know it well;
How Jesus died to save me from everlasting hell.
Yet, I can't help but wonder when my last chance will be;
And church is finally over for all eternity.*

*Church is Finally Over
Words and Music by Dwight and Doug Good*