**THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

**(The Humble Coronation of King Jesus)**

November 29, 2015

Luke 19:28-48 / Key Verse: 19:38, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

In the last week passage, we learned that someday Jesus would certainly come again as the King of kings and the Lord of lords and how we should prepare ourselves for his glorious second coming. Jesus taught us to work hard with a mina which is a new life in Christ. When we do so, Jesus will reward us according to what we have done. “Well done, my good servant! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities (Luke19:17).” Today we learn about Jesus’ triumphal entry as the Messiah King. In worldly point of view, Jesus’ entrance to Jerusalem doesn’t look like triumphal entry. It is too humble. There is no majestic coronation. In fact, what was waiting for Jesus was his crucifixion. Then our question is why Jesus’ such humble entrance is called “the triumphal entry?” Today we will learn the reason.

Look at verse 28. “After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.” To Jesus this time entering Jerusalem is his last entrance to Jerusalem. This time, he enters Jerusalem to be rejected and to be crucified. So we call this week “Jesus’ Passion Week”. Jesus would die on the cross on Friday and today is Monday; the starting day of the Passion Week.

Look at verses 29-31. “As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘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. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” Unlike other times, this time, Jesus gave a special mission to two of his disciples. It was to bring a colt; a young donkey for Jesus to ride. When the disciples would be asked by the owner of the colt, ‘Why are you untying it?,’ their answer instructed by Jesus was to be very short, simple, and clear. “The Lord needs it.” In this one short statement, Jesus acknowledged his Lordship (Kingship) and revealed it clearly.

Look at verses 32-34. The two disciples sent by Jesus obeyed as Jesus had instructed and found the colt just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” When they simply replied, “The Lord needs it” as Jesus had instructed, amazingly the owner of the colt did not ask them back for any other things, such as, “are you going to return? when?” but gladly and willingly allowed them to take it for Jesus. Here, we learn that Jesus had already prepared the colt and its owner’s heart for him. Jesus is the Lord. Jesus prepares everything he needs. However, we cannot learn Jesus’ lordship by knowing it theoretically but only through obeying his command practically by faith like two disciples.

Look at verses 35-38. They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 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: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Here, in Jesus’ time, putting off their cloaks and spreading them on the road was the expression of welcoming a king and the sign of surrender to the king. When people saw Jesus riding on a donkey, going along toward Jerusalem, they were so excited and welcomed Jesus as the King of the Jews and began joyfully to praise God in loud voices because they had seen all the miracles that Jesus had performed. Especially right before Jesus entered Bethany to come to Jerusalem, he raised Lazarus from the dead and this news spread widely near the vicinity and this news fueled people’s great anticipation of Jesus all the more and now it was in its peak that Jesus would establish his messianic earthly kingdom. So they began joyfully to shout to God in loud voices, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

In fact, this event was to fulfill God’ prophecy in Zechariah 9:9-10. Zechariah 9:9-10 say, “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. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

As Zechariah had prophesized, the whole crowd accepted Jesus as their King and blessed him who came in the name of the Lord and they shouted, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” We wonder if the crowd used the phrase, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest” in their right understanding because later they were changed and became angry crowds shouting toward Jesus, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” when they were disappointed by Jesus who did not establish his earthly messianic kingdom as they had expected. However, in verses 39-40, when some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”, he replied, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Here, we learn that even though they did not understand the phrase, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” correctly, the content of their praise itself was correct and Jesus accepted their praise because he was worthy of receiving such praise in deed. Jesus said, “If they have not praised him in such way and keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Jesus emphasized his kingship for their sake to continue to teach them that they should accept Jesus as the Lord while they still have opportunity to accept him before it would be too late. This is really serious matter to us as well.

Look at verses 41-42. Let’s read these verses together. “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 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.” Although the whole crowd praised God accepting Jesus as their King, he was not entertained by their praise because he knew that they had misunderstanding about the kingdom of God that King Jesus would establish and when he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 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.” Jesus was entering Jerusalem to become God’s Promised King who gives peace to the people; not worldly or political peace like “Pox Romana” or Pox Americana etc. but peace from God or of God and peaceful relationship with God. To give such peace to us, Jesus would suffer and die on the cross as the Passover Lamb of God. Why do people have no peace in their heart and in the relationship between people and nations? It is not because of physical or political or economical or religious matters but because of sin; the broken relationship with God. Jesus came to conquer this fundamental problem of mankind’s sin. His solution was that he would die on the cross in our place so that we might be forgiven and saved from our sins and be restored from our broken relationship with God. To accomplish this salvation and bring us peace from God, Jesus needed to humble himself up to the point of death; death on the cross. So, paradoxically, Jesus’ death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead was the climax of his coronation and in this sense, his humble entry to Jerusalem was the Triumphal Entry. But sadly to the eyes of people in the city Jerusalem, this truth was hidden and they did not know the time of God’s coming for their salvation. When Jesus did not satisfy their expectation by not establishing earthly messianic kingdom defeating Roman Empire with his mighty power, they rejected him and Jesus knew the serious consequence of their rejection of his kingship. Jesus prophesized about this in verses 43-44, “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. 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.” As Jesus prophesized, in AD 70, Jerusalem was completely destroyed by Roman General Titus.

Are you recognizing the time of God’s coming to you? The time of God’s coming to you is now today when you are hearing about Jesus who died on the cross for you. 2 Cor. 6:2 says, “..now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” There will come a time that you will recognize that it is too late for your salvation if you continue to reject him. While we still have opportunity to accept him for our salvation from our sin and eternal condemnation, let’s not lose this opportunity.

Look at verses 45-48. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he did not go to Palace but to the temple. What does this mean? He did not come as a worldly and political king just like so many other kings in human history. Instead, he came to restore the temple; our worship toward God to establish God’s kingdom on earth. When Jesus entered the temple, he began to drive out those who were selling and he said to them, “It is written, My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.” In Jesus’ time, the religious leaders made lots of money by making people buy the animals sold in the temple only and by selling them in very expensive price. In this way they made the temple as a den of robbers. The religious leaders were robbers who robbed the worshippers of their money.

The temple was the house of God’s presence; the place for people to meet God through their sincere sacrifice, repentance, prayer and bible study. But in Jesus’ time the religious leaders corrupted the purpose of the temple making the holy temple as the place for their own business. Jesus taught the word of God at the temple every day and in this way he restored the original purpose of temple. In John 2:19, Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” When he said this, he meant his body as God’s true temple which offers the way for sinners to come to God and meet him in and through his death and resurrection in 3 days after his death. In Jesus there is no need of physical building temple any longer because Jesus himself is our true temple that allows us to come to God and meet God through him. In Jesus, our body and heart also becomes the temple of God because God is dwelling in our heart and body. Jesus came to clean our temple of heart and body and restore our worship toward God. Jesus’ kingdom is not physical political kingdom but invisible, spiritual, and personal kingdom established in each person’s soul in the present and visible, worldwide, and physical kingdom on earth in the future when he comes again.

Today we learned Jesus’ triumphal entry. Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem as God’s Promised King looked like too humble and weak. However, Jesus’ humble entry to Jerusalem was the Triumphal Entry because in his last entrance to Jerusalem, he gave his life on the cross as the Lamb of God to forgive our sins and redeem us from our slavery to sin and rose again from the dead defeating the power of death and because in this way, he became the greatest conqueror King who conquered our real enemy; Satan and sin and death. As the Triumphal King, Jesus demolishes Satan’s stronghold from our heart and mind and rebuilds and restores our true worship toward God; God-centered life; life of prayer and life ruled by God’s word.

Now is the time of God’s coming to each person. This is about what Jesus brings us today; his salvation and peace. Jesus brings salvation and peace in each person, between people and nations. Today we should accept Jesus as our Lord and King before it is too late. If you already accepted Jesus as your Lord and King, you should live life surrendering to Jesus and cleaning your heart and mind which is God’s dwelling temple. This is holy life acceptable to our God; our King Jesus. Let’s remember that if we lose our holiness; Jesus, we lose everything like religious leaders and the people in the city Jerusalem who perished.