

Tusculum Hills  
Paul Gunn, Pastor

## WHAT CAN BRING YOU PEACE?

Luke 19:28-44

March 28, 2021

For public use: See non-copyright comments at the end of the message.

**INTRODUCTION:** A parade is a public procession celebrating a special person, day, or event. Parades have been a source of fun and celebration in the United States since the mid 1700s. We have Saint Patrick Day parades, Fourth of July parades, and Thanksgiving parades. We celebrate holidays, seasons, food, and flowers with parades. Perhaps that's why we love Palm Sunday, because basically, it's the story of Jesus on parade.

The three points of my message today are:

- Jesus made his presence known.
- The crowd worshipped Jesus.
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

### 1-JESUS MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19:28-35

*After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> "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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They replied, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.*

**EXPLANATION:** During much of his ministry, Jesus tried to avoid public attention. He even went as far as to ask some people not to tell others about him or

his works. He was keenly aware that the religious authorities were out to get him. He knew that his life was in danger. But that did not keep Jesus from heading to Jerusalem.

The bustling city of Jerusalem was even more congested than usual as travelers came in for the Passover holiday. Passover is a yearly celebration when Jewish people remember how God spared them from the death angel that passed over Egypt when the Hebrew people were slaves. By following Moses' command to paint the blood of a lamb on their doorframes, the life of the firstborn was spared. The Egyptians did not do it and suffered the consequences.

As people gathered all these years later to celebrate the Passover, Jesus didn't try to slip in unnoticed. He did not mingle among the crowds. On this occasion, he decided to make an entrance. In a few short days, he would be the new Passover lamb.

In fulfillment of the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9-10, Jesus decided to ride into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

For most of us, it seems like an unusual ride. After all, the donkey is a beast of burden. It hardly seems fit for a king, let alone THE King. But this wasn't just a matter of Jesus taking a load off his feet. The donkey represented humility and servitude. In addition, donkeys were often used for ceremonial purposes in ancient days. In comparison to a soldier who rode a warhorse, a king who rode a donkey symbolized a king who was bringing peace.

Make no mistake. Jesus was making a statement. He was making an entrance. Like movie stars today who walk down a red carpet to the flashing bulbs of paparazzi and fans, Jesus wanted his presence to be made known. His arrival in Jerusalem was not an accident. It was not a poor decision. It was the beginning of the end of his journey on earth and one step closer to the fulfillment of his purpose in coming here. On the road into Jerusalem, just days before his crucifixion, Jesus made his presence known. – Also:

## **2-THE CROWD WORSHIPPED JESUS.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19:36-40

*As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> 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:*

*<sup>38</sup> “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

*“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”*

*<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”*

*<sup>40</sup> “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

**EXPLANATION:** The crowd spread their cloaks and laid down branches for Jesus to ride across. Doing this was a sign of honor, but even more, it was a sign of submission. In order to lay something down, they had to bend their bodies. Essentially, they bowed.

The text doesn't specify, but it's not hard to imagine that when they stood, they did so with raised hands. After all, they were worshipping. In the account shared in John 12:13, John specifies that they used palm branches—which were a symbol of victory.

It's interesting to think that Jesus chose the Mount of Olives for his parade route. The Mount of Olives was and still is a popular burial ground. As the crowd bowed and worshipped and sang and rejoiced around him, Jesus rode past the tombs. As he neared the end of the road into the city, he would have passed near the Garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus knew that in only a few days he would be arrested. He knew that many of the worshippers around him on this day would cry out, “Crucify him,” by the week's end. He knew that even among the crowd on this day, there were those who hated him.

“Stop them!” the Pharisees called to Jesus. “Stop them from worshipping you.”

**ILLUSTRATION:** Jesus's answer was more than just a great comeback. “If they keep quiet, even the rocks will cry out!”

Maybe you don't know, but Jesus wasn't just being facetious. I listened to a radio program where a person had studied the sounds that the earth makes. Our earth, as in the planet earth, the very ground we stand upon, sings. Of course, we can't hear it, but the planet's entire atmosphere vibrates with sounds that grow and shrink like swells of an orchestra. Some say that the sounds can be compared to the ringing of bells. Others compare our existence here to living inside a massive musical instrument. But think about this. If we can't hear it, who is this music for?

“If they keep quiet, even the rocks will cry out,” said Jesus. The earth itself sings praise to the rightful king.

The Pharisees were incensed. They were jealous! They did not like what was going on! They wanted to be in control!

Jesus made his presence known, and the crowd worshipped him. While the atmosphere was one of joy, Jesus was surprisingly unhappy.

Let's review:

- Jesus made his presence known.
- The crowd worshipped him.

### **3-JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19:41-44

*As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> 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. <sup>44</sup> 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.”*

**EXPLANATION:** To us, the events of Palm Sunday seem like a great parade. We imagine Jesus riding into town like a cowboy dressed in white, smiling and waving at his fans, kissing babies, patting heads, and giving high-fives. But while the

people shouted and sang and praised and worshipped, Jesus rode into Jerusalem with tears in his eyes.

Jesus was not oblivious to what lay ahead. He knew full well his purpose for coming to earth. In a few days, Jesus would be arrested and nailed to a cross, crucified between two criminals. **Luke 23:33:** *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.* He understood that his purpose on this earth was to be sacrificed to take away the sins of many. **Hebrews 9:28** says, *so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

- Jesus also knew the hearts, minds, and temperaments of those who surrounded him, even those that loved him.
- He knew that among the crowd was the one who would sell him out for a few pieces of silver.
- He knew that in just a few days, one of his closest friends would deny ever having known him.
- He knew that the events of the coming week were going to be confusing and heart-breaking for his mother and his disciples.
- He knew that for many of the people in the crowd, this moment was a temporary celebration instead of a true act of submission.

And so, he cried not because he was scared, not because he dreaded what was to come, but because he knew the hearts of the people that he loved. He wanted desperately to bring them peace, but they did not know Him. So, Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

**APPLICATION:** Almost 2000 years after the events of what we call Palm Sunday, Jesus still makes himself known today. He does not hide in the shadows. He is not confined to the church. He rides into the recesses of your heart announcing himself as both a humble servant and the rightful king of your life.

His disciples still worship and praise him. The Bible tells us that all creation speaks of him. Today, Jesus still stands before us saying, “This day, I can bring you peace.”

We may not be under Roman oppression like the Jews, but we are still grasping for peace. We need:

- Peace from the conflicts of this world: the political, social, and personal conflicts.
- Peace from the troubles of this world: financial troubles, marital troubles, health troubles.
- Peace from internal struggles of self-doubt, fear, and insecurity.

Jesus offers us peace, not as the world gives, but peace through Jesus Christ himself.

Like the crowd that gathered so many years before, you too are faced with a choice. How will you respond to this Jesus?

- Will you bow before him for a day, or will you lay your life at his feet?
- Will you raise your hands in worship, or will you turn your nose up in contempt?
- Will you recognize and celebrate Christ's coming into your life, or will you send him on his way?

Famous author, CS Lewis, wrote, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God..."

Who is Jesus to you? Is he nothing more than a parade float that you cheer and wave on by, or is He your Savior and Your King? Will you accept his peace, or will you too cause Jesus to weep?

You can make peace with God today by repenting of sin and accepting Jesus as the Prince of Peace.

To preachers, teachers, students, and anyone else reading or using this message: I have posted this for all to use as you see fit. There is no need to cite me as the source. You are free to delete sections, add your own, or do whatever you want. There is no copyright. My request is that you do not copyright or sell my work. I am sharing my preaching notes in good faith with you because I know the challenges of putting together a lesson, especially when your week gets consumed with other things. Use it and enjoy!

I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

Find me at [www.thbc.com](http://www.thbc.com). Click on sermons or YouTube channel: Pastor Paul Gunn  
Thanks to Jennifer Anderson for her editing assistance.

Sincerely, Paul Gunn  
Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
USA