

John 12:12-19;37

A Parade Like No Other

What is it about a parade that gets us excited? Is it the expectation of what we will see? Maybe it's simply the spectacle of it all. But the parade we encounter in our text this morning is a parade like no other. To be honest, at first glance, it is quite unremarkable. A man riding on a donkey with his disciples in tow. What seems be a random crowd that assembled on the fly waving palm branches, shouting praise God! What manner of parade is this? Well, it is one, if look closely, that provides four very important lessons for disciples of Jesus.

First lesson, every word of God will prove true. If God says it will happen, it will happen. **V14-15** ¹⁴ "Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵ "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." **As it concerned the coming of the promised Messiah, there isn't one prophecy that Jesus did not fulfill, some 300 plus prophecies. Jesus' life unfolded just as the scriptures said it would. Church, the word of God is more than credible, and every word is to be trusted.** The story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem matters not simply because it is the fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9), but I believe it matters most because it assures us that the word of God is infallible. Every promise of God made to those who put their faith in Jesus is sure and the fact that the life of Jesus unfolded as prophesied in the Old Testament, should give us complete assurance that God will fulfill every word of promise made to all who trust in His Son, Jesus. Forgiveness, acceptance, the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, eternal life, peace, rest, victory, etc. all guaranteed. Every word of God will prove true. Every promise will be fulfilled.

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?” **NLT**

Heb 10:23 “²³Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.” **NLT**

Titus 1:1-2 “This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. ²This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.” **NLT**

Second lesson, you need not understand to obey. V16 “¹⁶His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.” The disciples had no idea why this was happening. When two were instructed by Jesus to go get the donkey, as indicated in Luke, Mark and Matthew they simply obeyed. They did as Jesus instructed them to do. No objections, no questions, just obedience. I can only imagine how puzzled they may have been, but they loved Jesus, and this was enough for them to trust him, to follow his lead. When you grow to love Jesus, you will trust and obey him.

Luke 6:46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?” **NLT**

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” **ESV**

Third lesson, yearn to love Jesus more than your comfort. V19 “¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!” **Stubbornness will blind you.** There was something for them to do. They could have stopped

resisting what God was doing through Jesus, repent and believe. I have come to learn that the protectors of the status quo aren't really concerned about how the change will impact others. No, they are only concerned about how it will impact them, especially if it means they must let go of things they have grown to love more than God and this was the case for many of the Pharisees. Sisters and Brothers don't be like the Pharisees. Yearn to love Jesus more than life itself and you will be willing to let go of whatever you must to follow him.

Luke 14:26-27 ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." **ESV**
John 12:25 "Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity."

NLT

Fourth and final lesson, miracles rarely lead to true faith in Jesus.

V17-19;37 ¹⁷ Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. ¹⁸ That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ³⁷ But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him." Miracles are impressive. Miracles peak people's interest. Miracles can even muster up large followings, as least for a short time. But miracles rarely bring about true faith in Jesus. The is the undeniable record of scripture. I have heard many say if God would do this or if God would do that, I would believe. Not true. Unless the Holy Spirit opens one's eyes, ears and heart to the truth of God's word, the gospel of Jesus Christ one will remain in unbelief despite any number miracles. Jesus worked a plethora of miracles and

yet the text states most still did not believe. Not some, but most. I am sure this remains the case today. I am of no shortage of conversations where persons refute the inerrancy of God's word, the record of scripture regarding the acts of Jesus, the trustworthiness of the Bible. Miracles are not enough, only by the power of the Holy Spirit does one believe in Jesus.

1 Cor 12:3 ³ So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit." **NLT**

I leave you with this question. Where are you in this parade? Did you just happen to get swept up in the events of the day or are you among those who truly follow the King? Church, many cheered that day, but not all believed. Many followed the crowd, but not all followed Jesus. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**