Palm Sunday

The Ride That Changed The World

"*And it came to pass, when He came near to…the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him,* ***'Because the Lord has need of it."*** *So the…went their way and found it just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of him." Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Now* ***as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,*** *saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another,* ***because you did not know the time of your visitation****."* **Luke 19:29-44 (NKJV)**

I. Introduction

II. What Can We Learn From Jesus and Palm Sunday?

1. Never allow your worship to be relegated to _____

"Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **Lk.19:37-38**

Key Thought: Do not wait until you get to a House of Worship to worship the One True God!

2. Despite the current global madness, we should never forget that Jesus is _____.

*"...(Jesus said) "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, **'Because the Lord has need of it**."* **Luke 19:30-31 (NKJV)**

3. Jesus had specific scriptural reasons for _____

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey." **Zechariah 9:9**

The donkey/colt symbolized two important things: Royalty & Sacredness.
In Jesus' day, the donkey held a special place in daily life and society...

- The donkey was considered a prized, valuable and noble creature
- The donkey was often ridden by wealthy and powerful people **(I Kings 1:33; 38-39)**
- Kings would ride into town upon a donkey to display their peaceful intentions
- Kings would ride in upon a stallion to represent himself as a conqueror or to communicate his intentions for war
- But Jesus rode in as a King, not to overthrow the government, but to save people from their sins! **(Luke 19:38)**
- Jesus rode in on a colt or donkey that had never been ridden **(Luke 19:30)**

Why was this important---that no one had ever sat upon it?
(See Numbers 19:2; Deut. 21:3)

4. Now, much like then, many people today will eternally suffer because they will have missed their _____.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" **Matthew 23:37-39 (NKJV)**

"*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God **in the day of their visitation**."* **I Peter 2:11-12**

Everywhere Jesus looked He saw reason to weep:

When He looked back: He saw how Israel had wasted their opportunity, ignored their visitation.

When He looked within the people's hearts: Saw their spiritual ignorance & blindness, they should have seen who Jesus was (The prophets, John the Baptist had prepared the way.)

When He Looked around: Religious people were accomplishing very little, His Temple had become a den of thieves, religious leaders were out to kill Him, **People were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover traditionally---but their hearts were filled with sin.**

When He looked ahead: Judgement was coming to Jerusalem/nation of Israel **(It would be a siege of 143 days, 600,000 Jews would be slaughtered, and the Temple completely destroyed in 70 AD.)**

They had missed their *"day of visitation"*. (God had come near them, revealed Himself, manifested His presence, beheld His glory . . . and they missed it!)

5. The whole world will behold the final _____

"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south." **Zechariah 14:4 (NKJV)**

You see, there will never be another time like that moment for Israel because the next time He *"visits"* He's not coming on a donkey or colt bringing peace.

However, His next visitation will occur at the same place---the Mount of Olives!

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and ***in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*** *And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron;* ***and He treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God,*** *the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."* **Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)**

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ***That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*** *of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* **Philippians 2:9-11**

Worship is the only real and adequate response when Jesus visits!

Answer Key;

1. one day per week
2. sovereign over creation
3. riding in on a donkey/colt
4. season of visitation
5. visitation of Jesus