

Message #93

Luke 19:28-40

In the early 1900's, a Christian woman, who was pregnant, became very ill. She went to her doctor for an examination. The doctor told her that her physical condition would make it extremely dangerous for her to have the baby and he strongly advised her to have an abortion. This Christian woman was very disturbed by this recommendation. She was totally convinced that God had allowed her to become pregnant and that He wanted her to have that baby. So she made a decision to stand against the counsel of many people and she decided to go full term with her pregnancy in spite of the risk. The Lord rewarded her with the birth of a baby boy.

Had that woman followed the advice of the doctors and several well-meaning Christians, the theological world would have missed out on one of the greatest theologians ever to live. That mother gave birth to Dr. John Walvoord. Dr. Walvoord lived to be over 92-years-old until he went home to be with the Lord in December 2002.

During his life, he wrote more than 30 books. He was the second President of Dallas Theological Seminary and became one of the most distinguished scholars of Biblical prophecy to ever live.

When I think about him, I cannot help but think about his mother who was in Wisconsin, who had to make a decision in 1910. Her decision was a lonely one. It was an opposed one; but it was a blessed one.

There is a great lesson to be learned here and that is when you are really doing what God wants you to do, there will be opposition; but if you stick with it, in the end there will be tremendous blessings.

That point is clearly seen over and over again in the life of Jesus Christ. As we come to this text, we come to one of the great scenes in the life of Jesus Christ. **He is about to enter Jerusalem and there will be many who will finally honor Him for who He is.**

But this honor will be short-lived. Christ and His disciples will discover they will not be well-received by everyone. Their arrival will not be welcomed by the Pharisees. What we see here is this:

WHEN JESUS CHRIST CAME THE FIRST TIME INTO JERUSALEM TO PERFECTLY FULFILL THE WILL OF GOD, THERE WERE RELIGIOUS PHARISEES WHO OPPOSED HIM AND HIS DISCIPLES.

When you are actually doing what God wants you to do, there will be some who will oppose you. They appear to be spiritual and scholarly but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. That is exactly what happened to Jesus Christ and it will also happen to us.

This is the first official coming into Jerusalem as the announced King and some oppose it. There are five historical facts that Luke brings out in this text:

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – Jesus Christ fulfills the perfect prophetic will of God. **19:28-31**

Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the will of God in three ways:

Way #1 - He perfectly fulfilled the will of God verbally. **19:28a**

Whatever Jesus Christ said and whatever Jesus Christ taught was always the word of God. In fact, **verse 28** begins with “after He had said these things.” Jesus Christ always spoke the word and will of God.

His verbal communication of truth was not contingent upon people understanding (Luke 18:34), or even believing because most did not believe. But He continually taught God’s word and God’s truth.

Jesus Christ specifically told His disciples why He was going to Jerusalem. He was very clear on that point (Luke 18:31-34; 19:11-17). The vast majority of people didn’t get it or understand it. He told them that He was going into Jerusalem to die, to be raised from the dead the third day, to depart for a while and then come back and judge. He taught them all of that. He laid out the entire plan of God and people didn’t get it. Even His own disciples didn’t get it.

It is not our job to make people understand. It is not our job to get them to believe. It is our job to accurately communicate the truth. It is our job to carefully set forth God’s word and that is what Jesus Christ did.

Way #2 - He perfectly fulfilled the will of God directionally. **19:28b**

The text says, “He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.” He is focused on the Jerusalem destination. From Bethany you literally do move up north slightly to the Northwest and you also move up in elevation.

Jesus Christ knew precisely what would happen when He went into Jerusalem. Yet, He went anyway. He could have walked away from this assignment. He could have run or quit, but He marched right into the city. **His whole ambition in life was to do the will of the Father.**

His direction in life never wavered regardless of personal pressure or sacrifice. He stayed focused on doing God’s will.

Way #3 - He perfectly fulfilled the will of God prophetically. **19:29-31**

Jesus Christ was completely focused on fulfilling the prophetic plan and program of God. What that required was He get a donkey. He was walking toward Jerusalem, but He would initially ride into the city limits of Jerusalem on a donkey.

As Jesus approached Bethany, which was located about 2 miles SE of Jerusalem, He knew it was time to get a donkey colt. This was a very important part of the prophetic plan of God. So He sent two of His disciples on a mission. He gave them five specific instructions:

(Instruction #1) - They were to go to the next village to find a donkey colt. **19:30a**

Now the reason why Jesus is doing this is to fulfill prophecy. It is predicted in Zechariah 9:9 that the King would first ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Bethany and Bethphage were suburbs of Jerusalem about 2 miles away. So now that Christ is getting ready to enter Jerusalem, He needs a donkey. It is critical that He humbly ride in on a donkey because He was riding in to fulfill the entire program of God.

(Instruction #2) - They were to find a donkey colt on which no one has ever sat. **19:30b**

The donkey they were to get was one upon which no one had ever sat. When the Lord wants to use something for His own sacred service, He wants it untouched by sinful man.

According to Numbers 19:2, this was the way a heifer was to be sacrificed.
According to I Samuel 6:7, this was the way a cow was to be that would pull the ark of God.
According to Luke 1:26-38, this was the way it was to be for the woman who would give birth to God's son.

God wanted a vessel for His service that was pure and not defiled.

(Instruction #3) - They were to untie the donkey colt. **19:30c**

This would be quite an amazing assignment. Cattle rustling is not well-received in any culture. Jesus said simply go to the next town and see that donkey colt and untie it and start walking away with it. Now in any dispensation, this is a dangerous thing to do.

(Instruction #4) - They were to bring the donkey colt to Jesus. **19:30c**

They were to untie the donkey and bring it to Jesus. This donkey colt had one destination: Jesus Christ.

(Instruction #5) - They were to give a precise answer to any who question them. **19:31**

The "if clause" is third class conditional in Greek, which is the future probability clause. In other words, they were probably going to be questioned about this and what they were to say was "The Lord has need of it."

That is it. That is all they would need to say. This proves the Deity of Jesus Christ and the sovereignty of God. By the way, please observe that Jesus identifies Himself as the Lord.

The reason why Jesus can say take this donkey and use it is because He is the Lord. He made the donkey and He is the one who let the people own the donkey He made. He is responsible for the very life of this animal. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and if He wants to use one of those animals while He is actually here on earth, that is His prerogative.

Most people don't get this point. The Lord gave us life, skills, abilities, talents, jobs, families and many good things. Wise are those people who fear Him and recognize it.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – The disciples fulfill their assignment which is the perfect will of God. **19:32-35**

The two disciples immediately did what Jesus told them to do. They found the donkey just like He said they would and as they were untying it, the owners asked them why they were untying it.

So according to **verse 34**, they said, "The Lord has need of it." Now if Jesus Christ had not told them to do this and they just said this, it would be a good way to get in serious trouble. If you were taking someone's vehicle and the owner asked what are you doing, and you said, "The Lord has need of it," you probably would get arrested.

But if the order is actually coming from the Lord, then He would turn the minds of the owners to be receptive to His word and will. Jesus had told them to do this, and when you obey the word of God, even when the odds are against you, you will see God do great things. The owners let them take their donkey to Jesus.

They obviously had no prior knowledge as to why two strangers were untying their donkey but when they said those six words in English, five words in Greek "the Lord has need of it," that was enough.

God's word is powerful. Our job is to give out the word of God and it has a supernatural dynamic power in it that is able to change hearts and minds.

Verse 35 says they brought the colt to Jesus and put Him on it. This is a donkey colt which has never been broken to ride or ridden. You get up on the back of a donkey, horse or mule that has never been ridden and you won't be on its back very long. This, in itself, is another amazing miracle.

HISTORICAL FACT #3 – Jesus Christ is honored and rides toward Jerusalem. **19:36-38**

When the disciples brought the donkey colt to Jesus, they threw their coats on it, like a saddle and put Jesus on it.

According to **verse 36**, as He rode, there were people, who were throwing their coats on the road. They somewhat realized who was riding into town and they are honoring Him.

This shows tremendous respect and honor by putting their coats on the ground in front of Him upon which a donkey would walk.

It is clear at this point that these people believe Jesus is their King and they think He is riding into Jerusalem to reign. In fact, they are shouting in part Psalm 118:26 that clearly is a Messianic Psalm that anticipates the coming Messiah.

The mistake they are making is that He is riding into Jerusalem this first time to suffer and die. Jesus is fulfilling the entire prophetic program of God.

HISTORICAL FACT #4 – The Pharisees try to stop the verbal praise and honor of Jesus Christ. **19:39**

Look at this. These Pharisees are trying to get Jesus to rebuke these people for telling the truth about who He is.

They know that the Psalm they are applying to Him is a Messianic Psalm and they are claiming He is the Messiah, which He is.

These are the religious leaders who profess to know God and His word and they are trying to stop the people from hearing and knowing truth.

Notice how they identify Jesus as a teacher. They don't even say He is "the teacher." They just acknowledge He is the character and quality of a teacher.

Self-righteous religious hypocrites do not love truth and they do not want the people to hear the truth or know it.

They are out to stop it. If people learn the truth, they will see through the phoniness of the hypocrites.

HISTORICAL FACT #5 – Jesus says the stones on the ground know the truth. **19:40**

Jesus said if these people stopped their testimony of who I am, the stones would cry out.

Pharisees are dumber than donkeys and stones.

There is a large group of stones located north of the city of Jerusalem, called Golgotha. Those stones resemble a skull and they cry out "Jesus died here."

Just a little to the south west are another group of stones that were formed into a tomb. Those stones cry out "He is not here, He is risen."

The testimony of the stones is powerful. They all tell the story of Jesus Christ. When you believe on Him, you are forever saved.