

2009, 11-29 Let Jesus be Jesus Luke 19v28-40

Jesus is about to enter your world. He is about to make his entrance on your life.

Whether it is celebrating his coming on Christmas, His second coming, or just his usual every day entrance, he is about to make his appearance.

How will you react? Will you jump up praising God? Will you harden your heart to his grace? Will you cooperate or ignore his plan for your life?

People in our story today have different reactions to Jesus and his work. We first here of Jesus entrance as he directs his disciples to go and get a colt, one that hasn't been ridden. Apparently Jesus is about to make some kind of entrance into Jerusalem. He carefully plans the choreography of his entrance.

By faith the disciples must believe that there is a colt waiting to be found. They must trust that their divine comment "The Lord needs it" will be enough to stop an inquisition why they are just taking someone's possession. Let me translate this situation to today's world. Jesus would have been telling them to go to the car dealer and drive off with a brand new small size truck. Just look for the one in the show room. And if anyone asks just tell them that the Pastor needs it.

The disciples don't set up a no interest, no down payment plan. They just take it. You can see how they might have been tempted to alter the instructions to make this task acceptable in their eyes. They also might have wanted to say things just a little differently to fit their own desires.

But the disciples faithfully follow Jesus instructions. They are ready to let Jesus do what he needs to do and make the entrance he needs to make. They are willing to let Jesus be Jesus.

What's even more amazing is the people who let their colt go. They trust that "The Lord" does in fact need this colt. How do they know that they are not being swindled or taken advantage of.

When someone asks you for something aren't you just a little bit skeptical whether this is a need or a want. Aren't you wondering whether they might use the money, or sell it for money, so that they can buy alcohol or drugs? Maybe we should be a little less cautious about the people we give to. Jesus does say that when we give to one of the least of these, then you give to me. Maybe people really do need help, right then and there, but we are too worried that the gift we give them will be put to good use. God's word says to be cheerful givers, not paranoid givers.

We don't know exactly what led the owners to give up their colt. Maybe they were told in a dream that it must be given. Maybe certain circumstances led them to believe that this colt was special and it had some divine purpose. Or maybe they were just ready to get the colt off their hands and they wanted it to have a good home.

Either way they weren't completely trusting. They still asked the question "Hey what are you doing" I did that once. I was looking for my bike because I needed to ride it to the seminary for class. It was missing and I thought it had just been stolen. Then I spotted a kid riding it around the parking lot of our apartment. "Hey what are you doing." You can imagine my feelings at that moment. The kid seemed unaffected by my 20 minute lecture on borrowing and the reality that there are no neighborhood bikes lying around free to ride. The lesson for me was, stop being so uptight. No one got hurt, and maybe I could be a little less possessive of the things that God has given me.

The owners of the donkey had a lot more to lose than me, and they let go, and let God have it. They were willing to let this strange event occur. They were apparently willing to let Jesus enact his plan, however bizarre it may be. They conceded to let Jesus be Jesus.

Now Jesus plans to make his entrance into the lives of many people at once. He rides along into Jerusalem. And how do the people react? Very well for the most part. They are committed to giving up more to Jesus. They are committed to giving the shirt off their back so to speak for Jesus.

But we'll see. We'll see whether they are the same ones that will one day yell "Crucify Him." Some will and some won't. But for today they welcome Jesus like a king. He probably didn't look impressive, dressed in humble clothing, possibly surrounded by a bunch of scrubby disciples. I don't know about those people of that time, but I sure would have rather seen Jesus ride in on a magnificent horse.

But that's not Jesus. Jesus enters as a humble servant. He enters gently and softly into our lives. Not with a violent earthquake or a strong wind. But with a still small voice in an ever so gentle breeze.

God sent me a gentle message in a more ordinary way after I gave a message one Sunday. I was preaching at a church in Washington, MO where I did my field work. They were the first to hear my story about my sister and how she got in a car accident. I was just as emotional then as I was when I shared that with everyone at St. Luke. But something happened after the service that I didn't expect.

A woman came up to me and told me that the same thing had happened to her. She had a brain injury almost identical to my sister. But she acted and talked just like everyone else. She

didn't talk slow or walk slow at all. She told me to keep praying because she had been healed. It was something that gave me hope, and my sister has improved almost as much as the woman had. To most people that woman just looked like everyone else. She acted and appeared like the average person. But I knew what had happened to her. God had entered into her life and done a miracle. This short and simple statement of the woman was just as powerful if not more than my attempt to have an impressive inspiring sermon. So God can make his appearance in subtle, more humble ways than we might expect.

Despite his appearance, they knew it was Jesus, Jesus the Messiah, The king of glory. They showed it in the things way they acted, the way the shouted, and by the words they said. This was the welcome that Jesus deserved. The let Jesus be Jesus.

Suddenly though, we witness the unwelcoming Pharisees. "Stop your disciples from praising you in this way Jesus." They said. They were ruining Jesus entrance. They were standing in the way of Jesus plan.

They didn't have in mind the things of God, but the things of men. They didn't believe that Jesus was God or should be treated that way. But how often do we get in the way of what God is doing as well. How often do we think we know best, not God. How often do we think Jesus should work differently. How often do we try to take control of a situation, instead of letting go and letting God.

But God will still enter into our lives. We may think we can stop him, but he continues to break down those walls we have placed up in front of him. We have tried to push God away from us, hardening our hearts, but he keeps coming back. He keeps softly and gently offering us

forgiveness. We keep being reminded of Jesus sacrifice on the cross where he shed his blood for us.

It's not about us, it is about him. If the disciples wouldn't have followed Jesus instructions, he would have found somebody else. If the owner's of the colt wouldn't have given up their colt, Jesus would have found another one. And if the people would have stopped praising Jesus, then even the stones would cry out.

Jesus will make his entrance. He will come again, this time with glory. He will make an appearance in your life. How will you receive him? Will you follow his plan? Will you let Jesus be Jesus? Amen.