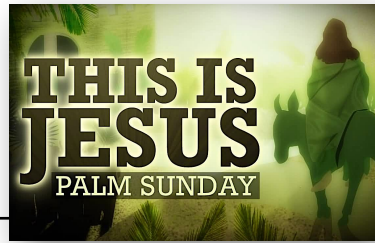


Experiencing the Peace of the Prince of Peace



*“42 How I wish **today** [“this day” NIV][“this day (of salvation) Amplified] that you of all people would **understand the way to peace**. But now it is too late, and **peace** is hidden from your eyes.” “44 ...you did not recognize it when God visited you.” Luke 19:42, 44 NLT*

- Are you stressed out, fearful, worried?
- Do you long for a sense of peace in your heart?

The world is becoming more stressful, fearful and violent. Most people want to live in peace, but it seems to elude them. Bible prophecy tells us that the world will continue to grow worse right up to the Second Coming of Christ. Christ offers us peace (John 14:27), but peace will never be fully experienced until Jesus sits on the throne of our hearts as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus said in John 14:27 NLT: *“I am leaving you with a gift - **peace** of mind and heart. And the **peace** I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.”*

The Central Lesson

We can only have peace when the Prince of Peace is **SITTING** on the **THRONE** of our heart. Is Jesus on the throne of your heart?

The Triumphal Entry of the Prince of Peace

This event is filled with significant symbolism:

1. The Colt symbolizes **PEACE** (vs. 30, 35).

In ancient times, a conquering king normally rode into a city on a horse. This demonstrated superiority and domination. However, Jesus rode a colt. He did not come to conquer, but to bring peace. He demonstrated humility. Jesus was presenting Himself as the promised Messiah in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9-10:

*“Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey - riding on a donkey's colt. ...Your king will bring **peace** to the nations. His realm will stretch from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.”*

The crowds lining the streets of Jerusalem understood the symbolism (Luke 19:36-38). They joyfully praised God and shouted: *“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!”* (19:38). The owner of the colt understood the symbolism (19:33-35). He willingly gave the colt to Jesus. Also, the Pharisees understood the symbolism (19:39). They tried to get Jesus to stop the people from rejoicing over His triumphant entrance into the city.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary states: **“All history had pointed toward this single, spectacular event when the Messiah publicly presented Himself to the nation, and God desired that this fact be acknowledged.”**

2. The cloaks on the road symbolizes **RESPECT** and **SUBMISSION** (v.36).

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people took off their cloaks and spread them on the road for Jesus to ride over. This symbolized **respect** for a monarch and **submission** to his authority. An example of this is in 2 Kings 9:13 when Jehu was anointed king of Israel: *“Then they quickly spread out their cloaks on the bare steps and blew the ram's horn, shouting, ‘Jehu is king!’”* When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people were acknowledging Him as the king of Israel and demonstrated submission to His authority. John MacArthur explains that it was as if saying: **“We place ourselves at your feet, even to walk over if necessary.”** (p.260).

3. The Palm branches symbolizes **JOY** (Matthew 21:8; John 12:13).

In addition to spreading their cloaks, the people also spread palm branches across the road. This is not mentioned in Luke's account, but is included in the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and John. Matthew wrote: *“Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.”* (Matt. 21:8). John states: *“12 ...A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him....”* (John 12:12-13). Scholars explain that in ancient culture the spreading of palm branches was a sign of **joy**. In the parable of the vine and branches, Jesus said: *“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my **joy**. Yes, your **joy** will overflow!”* (John 15:11 NLT). Are you experiencing the **joy** of the Lord?

4. Jesus' reference in verse 42 to “today” (NLT) or “on this day” (NIV) refers to Daniel's prophecy predicting the very day the Messiah would **ENTER** Jerusalem (Luke 19:42 and Daniel 9:25-26).

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem and made a statement that indicated that the day of His entrance into Jerusalem had special significance. Jesus said: *“42 How I wish **today** [“this day” - NIV][“this day (of salvation) - Amplified] that you of all people would **understand the way to peace**. But now it is too late, and **peace** is hidden from your eyes.” “44 ...you did not recognize it when God visited you.”*

Jesus' reference to **“today”** [“this day” - NIV] is a **flash back** to a special **prophecy** made by Daniel in **Daniel 9:25-26**, *“Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler - **the Anointed One** [the Messiah]- **comes....”** Theologians and Mathematicians have calculated the time period from this decree recorded in Daniel to when the Messiah was to come. The calculation dates to **the very period Jesus rode into Jerusalem**. If Israel would have read and believed the scriptures, they would have been fully convinced that Jesus was their Messiah. The reason Jesus told the Pharisees that *“the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”* (Lk. 19:40) if the people were to be silent - was because **“today”** [“this day” - NIV] (19:42) was special in the Universe and in human history. This was the day **Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled** and **marked Jesus as the promised coming Messiah**. The stones along the road somehow knew the significance of this day, but **the stony hearts of the Pharisees** did not!*

Conclusion - We can only have peace when the Prince of Peace is sitting on the throne of our heart. Is Jesus on the throne of your heart?

Suggested prayer: *“Dear Jesus, forgive me for the many times I have been self-centered and in control of my own life. I acknowledge that you are God in human flesh, the Lord of the Universe, and the Prince of Peace. Please sit on the throne of my heart. Take control of my life. Fill me with your special peace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”*