

April 9, 2017

“The Weeping King”

Luke 19:28-44

Intro

➤ *Jim Collins: “The tyranny of the OR and the genius of the AND”*

- We tend to appreciate what makes sense to us. And not everything makes sense to us.

“Every paradox requires that we embrace two things that seem like opposites. The paradox of flourishing is that true flourishing requires two things that at first do not seem to go together at all. But in fact, if you do not have both, you do not have flourishing, and you do not create it for others. Here’s the paradox: flourishing comes from being both strong and weak. Flourishing requires us to embrace both authority and vulnerability, both capacity and frailty—even, at least in this broken world, both life and death.” –**Andy Crouch**, *Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk, and True Flourishing*, 11

- Jesus brings together in his personality values and qualities that we often separate.

Authority & Humility

The King

- Jesus has been determinedly moving toward the city of Jerusalem (**Luke 9:51**). And everything he does here is intentional. Jesus is in charge of this situation—and with it, all reality.

“...the remark demonstrates Jesus’ control over events. He plans for all contingencies. Jesus exhibits total knowledge here: 1) the beast’s location, 2) its tied-up state, 3) its ‘unridden’ history, and 4) how to procure it.”

–Darrell Bock, *Luke*, 1555

“He speaks like one to whom all things were naked and open—like one whose eyes were in every place—like one who knew things unseen as well as things seen.”

–J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on Luke*, 308

- The imagery calls to mind some other scenes:

“So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet... went down and had Solomon ride on King David’s mule and brought him to Gihon. 39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise.”
(1 Kings 1:38-40)

“Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, ‘Jehu is king.’” **(2 Kings 9:13)**

The Donkey

- This is a Kingdom that will reign in weakness before arriving in glory.

“Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” **(Zechariah 9:9)**

- Why is Jesus doing all this?

“Up to this point in Jesus’ ministry, he could still have managed to live a long, happy, peaceful life, but his actions on Sunday set in motion a series of events that could result only in either his overthrow of the Romans and the current religious establishment—or his brutal death. He has crossed the point of no return; there would be no turning back. Caesar could allow no rival kings.”

–Andreas Köstenberger & Justin Taylor, *The Final Days of Jesus*, Kindle Loc. 433

- Humility without authority is directionless; authority without humility goes off the rails.

Conviction & Compassion

Insisting

➤ *What Jesus Demands from the World* by John Piper

- Jesus spoke like a Man who is *convinced* he is right.

✚ “Jesus never let his theology get in the way of doing ministry.” Really?

- You cannot care about people without caring deeply about certain realities.

“And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” (Mark 10:21)

Weeping

- Jesus teaches us how to be fully human.
- How do you respond to people’s sin and suffering?
- The merciless heart is unmoved by fallen realities.

“Jesus is more emotionally complex than we think he is. He really feels the sorrow of a situation. No doubt there is a deep inner peace that God is in control and that God’s wise purposes will come to pass. But that doesn’t mean you can’t cry. In fact, on the contrary, I appeal to you here: pray that God would give you tears. There is so much pain in the world. So much suffering far from you and near you. Pray that God would help you be tenderly moved. When you die and stand before the Judge, Jesus Christ, and he asks you, ‘How did you feel about the suffering around you?’ what will you say? I promise you, you will not feel good about saying, ‘I saw through to how a lot of people brought their suffering upon themselves by sin or foolishness.’ You know what I think the Lord will say to that? I think he will say, ‘I didn’t ask you what you saw through. I asked you what you felt?’ Jesus felt enough compassion for Jerusalem to weep. If you haven’t shed any tears for somebody’s losses but your own, it probably means you’re pretty wrapped up in yourself. So let’s repent of our hardness and ask God to give us a heart that is tenderly moved.”

–**John Piper**, “Palm Sunday Tears of Sovereign Mercy” (April 13, 2003)

Sovereignty & Responsibility

Control

- The God who can make the rocks cry out (**v. 40**) doesn't find his hands tied by human free will!

Appeal

- Do you have a theology that is big of enough for Jesus in one sense to *want* them to respond with repentance and at the same time be sovereign in their resistance?

"We err greatly if we suppose that Christ cares for none but His own believing people. He cares for all. His heart is wide enough to take an interest in all mankind. His compassion extends to every man, woman, and child on earth. He has a love of general pity for the man who is going on still in wickedness, as well as a love of special affection for the sheep who hear His voice and follow Him. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Hardened sinners are fond of making excuses for their conduct. But they will never be able to say that Christ was not merciful, and was not ready to save."

–**J.C. Ryle**, *Expository Thoughts on Luke*, 314

- Deepen the mystery:

John 12:37-40

Judgment & Mercy

Destruction

➤ *The Siege of Jerusalem, A.D. 70*

- Do you love the justice of God?

Redemption

Luke 18:31-33