**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 27 – The Beginning of the end**

**Today is Palm Sunday (if you don’t know why - you will). The beginning of the last week of Jesus – leading to the cross and His resurrection.**

**Mark (and ancient writers) are more concerned with character than chronology. Mark jumps to the last week of Jesus life.**

**Today is mentioned in all 4 gospels – known as the Triumphant Entry of the Messiah! Jesus had actually been to Jerusalem several times (John’s gospel) for the Passover and major feasts – this was his last trip.**

**The events that take place were not understand until after the resurrection. John 12:16**

**Sunday – 5 days before his crucifixion**

**4 Palm Sunday Proclamations - lot more happens here than you realize!**

**Just days earlier had just raised Lazarus from the dead - Sometime that Sunday - Mark 11:1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, (location outside Jerusalem. A crowd is already with him Mark 10:46) Jesus sent two of his disciples, (we don’t know who) 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt (young male donkey) tied there, which no one has ever ridden. (unbroken, untamed) Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” (Jesus calls himself Lord, master, owner - “the Lord wants it” - when Jesus uses something, he always gives it back better. His touch – can you imagine being the owner?)**

**1. Christ is proclaiming His rightful place as God Messiah**

**In this - Jesus is showing his sovereignty in how they would find the colt. It shows his total control of all things, at all times. He is God.**

**Isaiah 9:6-7 Speaking of the messiah says that - “govt will be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

**Never forget - The OT and NT were written by God – the HS. Jesus is that word in the flesh. The entirety of scriptures are about Him by Him.**

**Jesus God in the flesh - is following his own plan.**

**Mark 11:4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.**

**A young donkey? Why not a big white mighty war horse? Kinglier! How different than the Romans would have done.**

**2. Christ is proclaiming His rightful place as the promised king Messiah**

**That donkey is actually all about him being king!**

**Matt 21 says the little donkey fulfills scripture quoting Zechariah…**

**Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (vs 10 continues – I will take away the chariots and war horses, break the bows, and proclaim peace to all!)**

**The donkey represents humility, gentleness, peace and strength!**

**The work animal of the lower class, the donkey is known as the “beast of burden” they can carry more pound for pound than a horse – and can carry longer distances. The long haul!**

**Jesus was demonstrating he is the humble burden bearer king! The one whose govts will be laid on his shoulders.**

**Matthew also mentions that it was 2 animals - Matt 21:2 …saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.**

**Why only Matt mentions 2?**

**Matthew writing to Jewish people includes OT insight to the readers – they would find it unique and meaningful.**

**Why 2 donkeys? We see glimpses of why in Genesis 49 - Jacob blesses and prophesies over his 12 sons. To Judah – He says he will be like a tribe of lions - a family of kings - one will rule forever! From this tribe of Judah, Jesus is from.**

**It is during this blessing that we see the only other mention of a donkey and colt together in all of the scriptures.**

**Genesis 49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs (Shiloh - messiah title)comes and the obedience of the nations shall be his. (eternal reign & return of a Judah king = Jesus) 11He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. 12His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk. (?? Explained by many to just mean – Judah will be blessed with vineyards, but… we now see the big picture)**

**\*\* The vine - always represents God’s abundance, provision, and grace.**

**\*\* Shiloh (the Messiah King) - will come from tribe of Judah (the OT).**

**Shiloh tethers the donkey to a vine (donkey gives birth to the colt).**

**Shiloh will then tether the donkey’s colt to a better (choice) vine.**

**The Messiah tethered the old donkey to grace (old covenant).**

**Old gives birth to the new - tethered to greater grace (new covenant)**

**OT give birth to the NT - Those in Christ, like the vine, are given greater provision, abundance, and grace – by the messiah.**

**“He (Shiloh) will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. 12His eyes will be darker than wine, (beautiful eyes) his teeth whiter than milk.” (beautiful smile – both representing purity)**

**The fruit of the vine? Wine. The wine-stained garments – represents the blood poured out from this abundant grace. The wine is the blood that the messiah will wash his garments in - we now know that is the cross. (Jesus at the Lord’s supper. Christ is both the vine & fruit of the vine.)**

**Palm Sunday entry points to the Gen 49 promise…**

**3. Christ is proclaiming His rightful place as the promised suffering Messiah - The suffering savior – who is to die and rise again.**

**That passage in Gen 49 is the Bible in three verses.**

**V10 - The Vine (OT) - The family of Judah and the coming Messiah king.**

**V11 - The better Vine (NT)- King Messiah will come shedding his blood.**

**And to top it off – Judah means PRAISE!!!**

**What was happening that day? Praise to the Messiah – the lion of the tribe of Judah. KING and SAVIOR is here!**

**Mark 11:7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. (he was the first to ride it – why was that important?)**

**Why unridden? Colt is never saddled until Jesus rides it. This tells us that the new covenant only comes with Jesus.**

**Jesus alone sits on the colt (the new covenant) and rides it into Jerusalem. It is by Jesus the Messiah and Him alone.**

**John mentions (John 12:1-19) that many in the crowd knew Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead days earlier in Bethany.**

**They were pumped. Jesus is unstoppable. Even those who die he rises from the dead. This was the perfect military leader.**

**Mark 11:8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. (palm branches - symbolized goodness, triumph – and royalty) 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” 10 “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Shouting and fulling Psalm 118:25-29)**

**Hosanna - “God please save us now!” - Shout of Praise and help!**

**When shouted to Jesus it meant – praise to the one who saves!!!**

**In the crowd Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, 100’s of disciples - Believed to be “antiphonal” singing. Front sings as the people in the back repeat and answer. Let’s do it!**

**4. Christ is proclaiming His rightful place as the praiseworthy Messiah**

**Something I love about this moment - Jesus is despised and reject by many most his life. Usually, crowds came only to get something, but this day they lavished attention on him and gave him the honor due!**

**On this day – he sits on their garments with a red carpet made of palm branches - giving him worthy praise and honor, calling him Messiah King, savior!!! Finally!! If only short lived…**

**Getting wild - Luke adds that the Pharisees told Jesus to tell the people to stop shouting praise to Him. Luke 19:40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”**

**Until now – he spent 3 years discouraging people from publicly celebrating him as the Messiah. But not today.**

**\*\*\* We are to declare externally our praise. Make some noise! He is worthy – it is our reasonable response. I will not let a bag of rocks do what I was created for!!! I will praise HIM!!!**

**Mark 11:11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. (Matt says the whole city was stirred by his presence – Jesus went straight to the temple courtyard to survey the House of God)**

**\* John (John 11:57) Already a price for his arrest, Jesus is not afraid**

**\* Matt (Matt 21) mentions that Jesus cleansed the temple – explain.**

**\* Luke (Luke 19) says Jesus wept over the city (people) for the pain coming to them. In his omniscience he sees coming destruction.**

**He saw in 40yrs the city would be burned to the ground. 1/2 mil die gruesome horrific deaths. 30,000 people crucified. He sees current dancing and celebrating and sees a future blood bath.**

**He loved the people of Israel – his chosen family – that is why he is called the “man of sorrows” Is 53:3**

**Why would Mark not include these? Remember his audience, Roman gentiles – Mark rarely refers to the OT scriptures or Temple activities, as they were points of contention and disinterest to Romans.**

**Mark 11:11b He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. (other gospels tell us Lazarus, Mary, and Martha lived in Bethany – this was the Judean ministry base).**

**Remainder of Mark are the events of Jesus final week. Special Easter service next week. Back to Mark the following week.**

**What follows is a week of teaching, miracles, & confrontation – setting into motion his eventual arrest and grisly crucifixion.**

**They started the week shouting hosanna and ended the week shouting crucify!!! How did things turn around so quickly?**

**Little they realize they were in affect calling out the same thing – SAVE US! For that is what the cross did.**

**Turns out Jesus (savior) was not the Jesus they were looking for.**

**When the Jesus we get is not the Jesus we want**

**We often find ourselves doing the same… some thoughts on this**

**The Jesus they wanted**

* **A Problem Liberator – a Jesus to fix their earthly problems**
* **A Military leader - a Jesus to destroy the stranglehold of Romans**
* **A Political director - a Jesus to serve them, do as they ask & will**
* **A Prosperity giver - a Jesus to bring material blessing & happiness**

**That is what they were shouting for on that Palm Sunday!**

**BUT - they got a different Jesus than what they were looking for.**

**Maybe the Jesus you got was not what you expected. Many expect a problem solver, military or political leader, a blessing Jesus… but it never materialized… leaving you wondering and more lost than ever? But let me tell you – the real Jesus is so much better!!!**

**The Jesus they got – the Jesus we get!!**

* **A Jesus who fixes our eternal problem**
* **A Jesus who destroyed the stranglehold of sin**
* **A Jesus who is to be followed and served - as He will**
* **A Jesus who brings joy and peace**

**There is another final triumphant entry coming – A day will come when he returns again to a bride shouting Hosanna!**

**Illustration Video - His Kingdom is here**

**Let’s do that “antiphonal” again! “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

**Salvation –**

**Are you ready today to cry out hosanna? God, please save me!**

**Threads on a crocheted blanked – interweaved together by one person – hard to tell what it is until it’s done… but when you do… it’s like ohhh**

**So it is with the gospels – Palm is an important part of that**