

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: Jesus' triumphal entry

Readings: Luke 19:28-40

Preacher: Keith Branham

Date: 9th April 2017

This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons/>

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- Jesus triumphal entry in to Jerusalem, was an end of a journey, that started about 6months earlier when Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ.
- Luke 9:18
- This is the first time in the scriptures that Jesus has said what was going to happen – Only after the confession of Peter that he was the Christ.
- This took place in Caesarea Philippi, which is way up in the North
- Then there were many stories of Jesus on route. Then we get where it says Jesus resolutely set out to Jerusalem about 6months and 120miles.
- It is important to note that when Jesus comes into Jerusalem he had been travelling for 6months.
- The majority of Jesus' ministry took place in Galilee and all the apostles (except Julius Iscariot) came from Galilee. This is very interesting as the Jews held Galilee and Galileans with contempt!
- While Jesus kept to Galilee the Scribes and Pharisees had no or very little interest in him. It is only when Jesus came to Jerusalem that confrontation could not be avoided.
- When Jesus set his face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem what was it that he expected? Luke 13:34 shows how Jesus saw Jerusalem, as a very hostile place. Place that had killed the prophets. He had already told his disciples that the Son of Man would have to suffer many things!
- Jerusalem was hostile to Jesus in all its authority: The Elders where the Civil rulers, the chief Priests were the religious rulers and the scribes were the moral rulers. The Sanhedrin was made up of Priest, scribes, civic, spiritual rulers and they were all against him.
- Jesus knew what was expected, but scripture says that Jesus set his face steadfastly on Jerusalem!
- Jesus tells two of his disciples to go on a head to collect a colt. Matthew reminds us that the entry into Jerusalem by Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy (Zac 9:9)
- One question, why did Jesus ride in on a colt? One commentator reminds us that a colt was a regal mount and in those times Kings rode on Colt. Therefore Luke is not telling us about Jesus' humility rather he is telling us that it is a symbol of his kingship.

- What about the Romans, how would it match up to all their pomp and ceremony? No doubt they would have laughed at it. What about the Hebrew leaders? They know the scriptures! Perhaps they had perceived some movement was at hand; they would be afraid of losing some of their authority. Did this event fuel their determination to have Jesus dealt with? What about the whole crowd of disciples (there were many more than 12) They saw in Jesus something unique. A large proportion of the people there on that day would have followed Jesus all the way on his journey from Galilee and chanted "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the law".
- Therefore it seems that they were aware of the Zachariah prophecy and were moved to worship their Messiah. The Pharisees refused to believe although they know that singing this on the way in to Jerusalem was high treason! They had only one king and that was Caesar – hence their demand to "rebuke your disciples"!
- Jesus had never done anything to provoke a demonstration. Time and time again we see him withdrawing from the crowds because they were trying to make him king. Previously he had refused the kingship – but now he is accepting it. And refused to silence the voice of his loyal subjects.
- Jesus says what is happening is so great that if there was not human voices the stones themselves would cry out
- Why did Jesus steadfastly step out to face Jerusalem? There is only one answer because he came to fulfil God's will. Whatever the cost. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus said "May this cup be taken from me but not my will but yours"
- Keith shared the Matt Redman song "Jesus Christ, I think upon your Sacrifice (995 in Mission Praise)
- Jesus gave up everything for us – What are we prepared to do?

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- As normal read through all the passages mentioned in the sermon.
- Jesus set out 6months and 120miles to go to Jerusalem. Where do you want to be (spiritually) in 6months?
- Why not find a map of Israel and look to see where some of these places that Keith mentioned are? It is often a good idea to read the Bible with a map on your lap to help you visualise all that Jesus did and where he did it!
- Think about the title Son of Man. What sort of images does it bring to mind?
- Have you ever set your face on something and, although you knew it was what God wanted, you know it was going to be hard? How did you keep going?
- When was the last time you were moved by the Messiah? How did that feel? Do you want to feel that again? What stops you? Was it Jesus?
- At least twice in the Gospels Jesus is offered the kingship (can you think where they are?) and refuses. Why do you think he accepts it this time?
- Why not read through Matt Redman's song number 995

Please note these are Mark's thoughts etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!