

# Beauty

Week of March 20

If there was ever anyone who stayed focused in the midst of chaos it was Jesus. From the beginning of His public ministry He was surrounded with criticism, skepticism, misunderstood mission, name-calling and slander at times – and yet, He kept right on teaching, proclaiming the Good News, healing, even raising the dead. Jesus is our supreme example of remaining faithful in the fire.

Luke chapter nineteen gives us the story of Zacchaeus, the parable of the Ten Servants, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and the clearing of the Temple. Each account is about doing the right thing in the midst of chaos and criticism. If you have been waiting for the right "season" to do ministry – waiting till your life gets more in-control before you begin to serve your Lord – the wait is over. There will always be "stuff" in your way. Ministry is messy anyway, so you might as well jump in with your mess and be about your Father's business. Jesus says: "Wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest" (John 4:35b).

## Read Luke 19:28-48

1. Look closely at Jesus' instruction to His disciples in vv30-31. How does this connect with His words in the close of the parable in Luke 19:20-27 (specifically vv 21-23)?

Although Mark's gospel says the disciples did promise to return the colt at Jesus' request (Mark 11:3), Jesus is, after all, Lord over everything. Think about this: Are you willing to give over control of all areas of your life to the Lord? Is there something in your possession that the Lord needs—are you willing to give it to Him, like the owners of the colt?

It's difficult to imagine what might have been going through Jesus' mind the week before His crucifixion. John's gospel says, "Six days before the Passover celebration began" there was a dinner in Jesus' honor at the home of Lazarus, the man whom Jesus had just raised from the dead. The next day news spreads that Jesus was on His way into Jerusalem (John 12:1, 12). According to Matthew 21:10: "The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as He entered. 'Who is this?' they asked."

2. Look at another time the entire city of Jerusalem "was deeply disturbed." Read Matthew 2:1-5. Why does the presence of Jesus Christ – the witness of His life, the mention of His Name – still cause disturbance in this world?

What does Jesus say about the division His appearing will bring according to Luke 12:51-53?

When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts, we make a commitment to follow Him regardless if everyone else rejects us. Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Later He told His disciples: "Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me" (Luke 10:16). And then the Lord says these alarming words: "Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, He is the One to fear" (Luke 12:4-5).

God does not want to "throw" people into hell. Hell was created for the devil and his demons (Matthew 25:41). In fact, God came to this earth to take your place on the cross and in hell took back "the keys of death and the grave" (Revelation 1:18) cancelling your debt of sin, and promised new life to everyone when He rose victorious on the third day from the tomb. But continuing to reject God's precious gift of salvation, His Holy Spirit, and His sacrifice of love—leaves a person in their sin. And in the end, if they never repent and turn to the Lord of life, their choice forever separates them from the God who loved them so much He died for them.

3. These are difficult words to read. It is no wonder Jesus wept when He looked out over Jerusalem and cried: "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes" (Luke 19:41-42). How are you noticing your compassion (and your prayers!) for the lost beginning to change since the start of this message series, *Beauty*?

Why is it imperative that we as followers-of-Christ remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ no matter what we are going through personally?

The Lord knows your personal struggles and He is not indifferent to the spiritual warfare over your life. In fact, Jesus of all people knows that the more determined you are to serve Him the more the heat will be turned up. Just like the enemy did not want Christ to win, the forces of darkness do not want you to win. But Satan is defeated and Christ will help you be victorious if you trust Him. Give your struggles (your “season” of struggle) to the Lord and ask Him to turn it around for good!

4. How is the Lord calling you to serve Him in the midst of your chaos? Pray about your situation, listen for His voice, and then rise to put feet on your prayers. The Lord promises to be with you and keep you alive in the fire. Stay true to Christ and His Church. Many people around you still need to hear the Good News. Remember, there is a beauty in staying true to the end.

### One Year Bible Reading

Mar. 20: Numbers 30:1-31:54, Luke 4:1-30, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 11:20-21  
Mar. 21: Numbers 32:1-33:39, Luke 4:31-5:11, Psalm 64:1-10, Proverbs 11:22  
Mar. 22: Numbers 33:40-35:34, Luke 5:12-28, Psalm 65:1-13, Proverbs 11:23  
Mar. 23: Numbers 36:1-Deut. 1:46, Luke 5:29-6:11, Psalm 66:1-20, Prov.11:24-26  
Mar. 24: Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29, Luke 6:12-38, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 11:27  
Mar. 25: Deuteronomy 4:1-49, Luke 6:39-7:10, Psalm 68:1-18, Proverbs 11:28  
Mar. 26: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 68:19-35, Proverbs 11:29-31

# BEAUTY

**Text: Luke 19:28-48, Matthew 22:1-13**

## Who is this Jesus?

Let's look at Luke's eye witness account....

- 1) Prophecy \_\_\_\_\_ on Mt. of Olives.
- 2) The Lord needs the colt, implies that Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The larger crowd of Jesus' followers began to throw their \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground before the colt.
- 4) Praise, but no \_\_\_\_\_ in Luke's account.
- 5) But the Pharisees began to \_\_\_\_\_ the followers of Jesus and said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"
- 6) This was Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_, this was the very time to set the record \_\_\_\_\_!
- 7) Then Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ over Jerusalem.
- 8) Then Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ house.
- 9) Jesus doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ when he finds sin.
- 10) Jesus also rode into Jerusalem for another reason—for \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Plain Truth:

\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ garments before  
Jesus allows you to put on the \_\_\_\_\_ garment.

March 19 & 20, 2016