

Triumphant

The context: Jerusalem, where four Kingdoms meet.

- That very week, Pilate came into town—some think it happened that very day. Pilate represented the Roman empire, Caesar, power, and glory.
- Herod, “the King of the Jews,” wasn’t a Jew. Jesus said he was a fox, which represents intrigue and deception.
- The Pharisees, the religious Jews, The Sanhedrin, The High Priest Ananias and Caiaphas—they liked to be seated at the head of the table. Phylacteries
- I wonder what Pilate and the Romans would have written about the parade into Jerusalem.
- I wonder what Herod would have said, or what the Pharisees thought.

Luke 19:28–48 (NIV) ²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” ⁴⁰“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” ⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.” ⁴⁵When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. ⁴⁶“It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Why do we call it the Triumphal Entry?

- If you look at it from human terms, what is triumphal about it?
- Knowing the whole story, it seems terrible from a human perspective.
- Like so many things, it started out great (depending on who you are), and it ended in tragedy
- From a human perspective, it doesn’t compare to what the Romans pulled off.
- It is, however, filled with spiritual meaning.

1. It’s triumphal because of what it reveals about God’s power.

- Prophecy fulfilled. Think of all God had known and caused.
 - ⇒ Born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, performed miracles, a light from Galilee, coming from Egypt...
- Think of all that had tried to get in His way.
 - ⇒ The devil had sought to tempt Jesus.
 - ⇒ The Pharisees had tried to kill Him.
- John the Baptist
- Even the donkey:

Zechariah 9:9 (NIV) 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.

2. It's triumphal because it reveals about God's love. (Luke 19:41)

- He knew what the people would eventually do, and He continued anyway.
- He knew He would be handed over to the Gentiles. (Luke 18:31)
- Even His own disciples would betray Him.

Luke 19:41-42 (NIV) ⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes."

Daniel 9:25-27 (NIV) ²⁵"Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed."

Matthew 23:37-39 (NIV) ³⁷"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

3. It's triumphal because of what would be accomplished.

- God revealed His power.
- God revealed His desire to save.
- God revealed His hatred for sin.

Isaiah 53:1-10 (NIV) ¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.** ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (emphasis added)

4. It's triumphal because it reveals God's heart for the world through His people.

- God's heart was not to attack the lost, but to reach them.

Mark 11:17 (NIV) And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Questions to Ponder and Discuss

1. What passage will you meditate on this coming week? How will you abide in your relationship with Jesus this week?
2. What stood out to you about God, people, or the world? What insights do you have about thankfulness or generosity?
3. What challenged your thinking and perspective? How do you want to respond?
4. How does what you are understanding impact your relationship with God? Or with your family? Or those in your life group? Or people you work/do business with?
5. What was for you from this message? What, from this message, is God pressing upon you to share with someone else?