

Sunday April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 21:1-11

“Peacemakers Needed Here”

INTRO

Going out for dinner with Landon- family traits

Looking at our new grandson- “whose eyes?” “face”
“smile”

We all do it

Try to see the parents in the kids

-sometimes its facial, sometimes its
mannerisms, cultural

-sometimes its attitudes and actions

Father’s temper, mother’s caustic critiques

We would like to hope that our kids take on our best
traits

-Dad’s funeral- always there to help someone if
needed- like to think I carried on some of that

Today- Palm Sunday, Triumphal entry- what traits, characteristics does Jesus want to pass on to his family as most important

- How do the “Beatitudes” speak to his desired inheritance for each of us

BACKGROUND

Joining us for Holy Week- come as much as you can

Thursday, Friday, Sunrise, Easter

Journey of the last few days of Jesus’ ministry

Lenten season, journey through the beatitudes- bookends- start of Jesus’ ministry, now the end

-progress us through how our journey with God progresses

-poor in spirit, mourn over sin, meekness before God and others, hungering for God’s righteousness, seeking, distributing and receiving mercy, purity in heart

-promises- inherit the kingdom, comfort, forgiveness of God, receive the earth, filled with God’s truth and righteousness, mercy and seeing God himself

God never makes a promise he does not fulfill

-also does not call us to something he hasn't equipped me to be

Beatitudes are there to create in each of us a longing for something bigger than what is in us

-reveal to us a longing we didn't know we had, or should have

When we realize we are empty before God, God creates a desire within us to fill it with something greater than we can imagine

-today- God sized hole is filled with peace

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God” (5:9)

Triumphal entry, Palm Sunday- Jesus, Prince of peace shakes the world and stirs the people to find peace- and shows us that peace is possible, but it is costly

Triumphal entry- marking these last days of Jesus' inevitable march towards Jerusalem

-all leading up to these events

Advent, Christmas celebrating Jesus' birth- from the beginning Jesus' life is marked for a purpose

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.
Of the increase of his government and of his peace
there will be no end” Isaiah 9:6-7

-Jesus’ purpose to restore relationship with the Father, to bring peace between God and humanity, to rule and reign supreme

-all the events of his life, teachings, miracles were to call people back to peace with God

Triumphal entry- Jesus riding into the heart of conflict- confronts conflict to bring peace

-Passover week Jerusalem swelled to over 120,000 people

-Roman soldiers on high alert- crowds tense anything could happen

-into this powder keg Jesus makes a grand entrance

““Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie

them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
"Say to the daughter of Zion, '**Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.**'"
(Matthew 21:2-5)

-ancient days- king would ride a horse if coming into battle, ride a donkey if coming in peace

-prophecy from Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
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...
and **he shall speak peace to the nations;**
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
Zechariah 9:9-10

Israelites had suffered under Roman rule for centuries

-oppressed, taxed, pressed into service- looking for the promised Messiah to deliver them

-Zealots wanted a deliverer, Messiah of war

Imagery of the King was not lost on those watching

2 Kin 9:13- “They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, “Jehu is King!”

Lev 23:40- “On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the Lord for seven days.”

Crowds are shouting songs of praise welcoming God’s power and victory

Ps 118:14- “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous; “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

“Hosanna- “God save us- Now”

-oppressed for too long, held down for too long, abused for too long, mocked for too long- they wanted release

-they knew what they wanted, Mighty God to usher in his kingdom to deliver them with the sword and victory over their enemies

Instead- Jesus rides in as ultimate peacemaker

God is a peace desiring, peace-loving, peace bringing God

-we like the all powerful, all knowing God- forget the rest of him

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

God’s purpose in his redemption story is to bring peace through Jesus the King

-peace with him and each other

Later being tried...

Sanhedrin- “Tell us, are you the Christ, the Son of God”- “Yes it is as you say.”

Pilate- “Are you the King of the Jews”- “Yes it is as you say.”

Crowd on Palm Sunday had a misplaced vision and expectation of Jesus, of the Messiah- Jesus was trying to show them, teach them the truth

-they wanted a Warrior King- Jesus was a redemptive king- coming to bring peace- first with God- then others

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. Ephesians 2:14,17

Palm Sunday- Jesus was riding into a powder keg of rebellion with each other- and with God

-God had not spoken to people through a prophet for 400 years because of their disobedience, rebellion

Into that conflict with God, God sends his peacemaker, his son and it would be the cross of Jesus, blood of Jesus that ends that war with the Father

Triumphal entry- coming king staking claim to his kingdom

- also a rallying call for his followers

“Blessed are the peacemakers”- that’s us

- King rides into battle, raise his standard to rally around

- crowds this day were rallying, right king, wrong reason

Book of Revelation promises that one day Jesus will usher in his kingdom once and for all with all the power he has- it will be the final battle- until then..

We are called to walk in the nature of our calling- nature described in the beatitudes- part of that nature is “peace maker”

- children take on the characteristics of their parents

- if God is a peace maker, and we have his nature, we will be peacemakers as well

Romans 8:14- “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God”

What does a peacemaking child of God look like?

I behave as God’s messenger of peace

“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:43-45)

I demonstrate in my actions and attitudes my God of peace

- how I relate and interact with people is different

- Are people drawn to God or away from God by my words, actions, attitudes- regardless of how I am treated, how I am spoken of

- I do not compromise God’s truth in the process, how I respond to people leads them to God’s truth

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Heb 12:14)

Jesus rode into the city knowing full well what would happen

I deliver God’s message of peace

How beautiful on the mountains

are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,

who say to Zion,

“Your God reigns!” (Isaiah 52:7)

How often have you heard, or said, “I didn’t know any better?”- excuse for behavior

We look at the brokenness of people and the world

-why do we expect anything different unless people know that there is a difference, and that they can be different?

Can’t force people to live in peace- but you can let them know they have the ability

-peace with God, peace with each other

Because of what Jesus is about to do on the cross

God’s children take after him- they are peacemakers- helping people to live in peace with God- and showing they can with each other

-they can- because their brother Jesus, God’s Son, our Savior and Lord made it possible

“Blessed are the peacemakers” because Jesus, God’s peacemaker made peace possible.

This week

Have I invited Jesus to be the peacemaker in my life with God?

As God's peacemaker, to whom would he have me bring his message of peace?