

Jesus, The Grand Marshall

Text: Luke 19:28-44

Intro: If anyone ever deserved a parade it was Jesus of Nazareth. The parade described in the reading is popularly called the TRIUMPHAL ENTRY. It would be more accurate to call it The Passion Entry since it began THE PASSION WEEK. Jesus initiated the parade either by reserving the donkey and the upper room or overruling the owners to allow for their use. Regardless, the parade was anything but triumphant.

- It didn't happen in the City of David
- It didn't happen in His Father's house
- The adoration was minimal in spite of the spin put on it by the religious leaders.
- The celebration quickly disintegrated by the end of the week with shouts of

"Crucify Him, Crucify Him. Little wonder that Jesus "wept on his own parade." v.41 In spite of the downside of the parade there are clues given to us who want to celebrate Jesus as The Grand Marshall of an eternal parade. The clues are:

- I. You play a unique role in presenting Jesus. The humble donkey was unriden before, unaccustomed to a riding blanket, unprepared for the waving branches and the noisy shouts. The donkey felt the touch of the Creator and heard the soft voice of the Rider.
 - Those who spread their garments did.
 - Those who cut the branches did.
 - Those who loudly sang "Hosanna" did.
 - Even little children danced with joy.
 - Every believer is to be a part of making Jesus known.

In the eastern part of the United States, there is a species of ants called the Allegheny ants. They help enrich the forest areas by carrying tons of soil from below ground to the surface. A three year study by the University of Wisconsin revealed that one colony of ants moved 15 tons of subsoil, building clusters of large mounds and burrowing 5 and ½ feet below the surface. This deep plowing increases the nutrients, clay and organic matter of the subsoil of the forest. NO WONDER, THE BIBLE SAYS, "Go to the ant, consider her ways and be wise. Likewise is every believer would be a witness, multitudes would be a mountain of faith in our times. WE WHO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS OUR ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR ARE TO BE AVAILABLE TO MANIFEST THE FRAGRANCE OF JESUS WHEREVER WE ARE.

The second clue is:

11. YOU IDENTIFY THE SPECIAL MOMENTS JESUS VISITED YOU.Â V.42, 44 (miracles they had seen,) v. 37

- The man and his four friends who went through the roof for him. 5:17-26
- The madman of Gadara, 8:36-39
- Jairus and his daughter, 8:41-56
- Bartimaeus healed from his blindness.
- LEPERS FOR JESUS some posters read

There was a San Francisco Giants game I remember as though it were yesterday. Joyce and I watched Dave Dravecky pitch a spectacular game. It was his first game after cancer surgery on his pitching arm. He spent the rest of the afternoon before the media giving praise to God and His savior. There were tears on the day of the entrance of King Jesus. It gives us a third clue for those who want to celebrate the Savior.

III. You can have compassion on those who are indifferent or antagonistic to the parade. Jesus wept, v.41 His heart was broken because He came to show the heart and face of the Father and they failed to recognize him. He foresaw the armies of Rome that would come in AD 70 and level the city and its beautiful temple. His heart was grieved of the death and destruction that would ensue. VV. 41b-44 and then the fourth clue,

IV. RECOGNIZE WITH JOY THAT THE PARADE IS GROWING EACH DAY. The crucifixion did not stop the parade. On the third day Jesus came forth, over 500 witnessed his resurrection appearances. 50 days later on the day of Pentecost, God fearing nations from every nation on earth came to Jerusalem. 3000 of them heard, they repented, and were baptized. Then there were 5000, and then they said "they have filled the whole city with their doctrine, and then it was said they have turned the world upside down." The parade continues so that in the final chapter of history it is written, "With your blood you have purchased people (men) from every nation on earth." Flags from every nation, I will march in the class of 1947. How many of you have entered the parade since 1960?, Since 1970?, Since 1990?

How about being part of the 2010 class? With heads bowed and eyes closed, is there one that will hold up your hand? And say "Jim, Pray for me. I want to be part of the parade of believers who love Jesus and I will accept the offer of Jesus to forgive my sin and I will begin today to follow after the Lord and serve him as he enables me. Will you pray for me and my desire to allow Jesus to rule my life?" I am asking you to raise your hand that I may pray for you. No one is looking around. This is a matter between God and you. Prayer---If you prayed that prayer then go to someone and share that confession of faith. *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Read 10:10