

# Why Did The Cheering Stop

Luke 19:29-19:44

## I. Introduction

A little boy was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "Why do you have that palm branch, dad?" "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved Palm Branches to honor him, so we got Palm Branches today." The little boy replied, "Aw Shucks! The one Sunday I miss is the Sunday that Jesus shows up!"

- A. George Bush I, after victory in war over Iraq, was at record level's of approval rating, but 2 years later lost his election to Bill Clinton.
  - 1. The cheering lasted for about 1 year, then it began to stop.
  - 2. Same thing happened to Woodrow Wilson after WW1, and it was thought that the world had at last been made safe... the cheering lasted for about a year... but a year later, with opposition in Senate... he lost his next election.
- B. History is filled with examples of people who started out humbly, rose to great popularity, and came to the end of their life in utter humiliation.
- C. In **Luke 19**... Jesus, the son of a carpenter, educated in Nazareth, one who gained favor with men, one who was cheered and praised, would soon be mocked, scorned, and cast aside by the same ones who did the cheering.
- D. Children of Israel had their praise dry up in 3 days into the wilderness, after a great praise service at the Red Sea with Miriam leading the dance of victory!

## I. The Setting

- A. Roman Oppression... heavy taxes, restrictions, many executions by crucifixion... and the Jews were in search of someone who could lead them out and set them free.
- B. They had seen the mighty works of Jesus
  - 1. restoring sight to the blind, raising the dead, healing the lame.
  - 2. Feeding the multitude with a little boy's lunch
  - 3. Listened to him teach with authority... surely Jesus would set them free... so as Jesus came to Jerusalem the crowds began to gather and cheer.
- C. The timing
  - 1. Passover was symbolic of when the death angel passed over the land of Egypt and Pharaoh let the people go... now, maybe Jesus would lead them from the restraints and cruel treatment they received from the Romans.
  - 2. Romans soldiers also knew it was Passover. Several years earlier, Theodotus of Jordan had ridden into Jerusalem with a similar greeting. They remembered how he promised to do the miracles of Elijah, and how he led a fairly large revolt. The soldiers remembered how that Theodotus, along with over 400 of his followers was slain, and the head of Theodotus was hung on the garrison wall. They knew Passover could bring trouble, and so they were ready.
- D. But Jesus didn't gather any troops. He didn't lead a revolt. He didn't do what they expected. Instead, He drove the moneychangers out of the temple. He paid tribute to Caesar. He taught that giving out of poverty is worth more than giving out of abundance. He taught that in order to be great, you must be a servant. Jesus did everything the people didn't want, and so the cheering stopped.

## II. The Message

- A. It is easy to cheer when God does what we want.
  - 1. When Jesus heals, it is easy to cheer, but what about when God doesn't do what we want? What about when you face troubles, oppression, too often the cheering stops.
  - 2. Sometimes God does give us what we want, but you better believe; He always gives us what we need.

### III. Luke 19:41-44 -- They did not recognize God's purpose and heart

#### A. v. 44, they did not recognize the time of God's coming to them.

1. coming or visitation = episkeptomai, which literally means to visit to bring relieve.
2. Used in Mt. 25:36 - "sick and ye visited me."
3. Here is a group of people desiring relief and salvation from oppression, and failing to see their opportunity for true relief.

**B. They were taken up in their current condition.** Jesus even told them once that they could look at the sky to discern the weather, but they could not discern the time in which they were living. But, there is a reason that they could not see His purpose. They could not see Jesus' purpose because they had their eyes on their immediate circumstances instead of their current condition.

1. If your eyes are on your hardships, difficulties, then your focus shifts to everything around you that is wrong, our prayers start to change, and it becomes "Lord deliver me, help me, fight for me," instead of "Lord mold me, use me, grow me through these things, change me, and get glory for yourself."

**2. Too often the desire is for God to change the circumstances, instead of God changing the person in those circumstances.** And sadly, it has an effect. In time the cheering stops.

- a) You go through the motions without the passion for worship and instead of praising God for who he is, you complain and whine.

C. Jesus came to deliver them... from the bigger problem of sin.

- 1. John 16: 33** "These things have I spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." With Jesus, you can have peace, even in the middle of tribulation.

### IV. 19:42, They refused to accept His terms

A. "If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace..."

B. "know" is not a mental knowledge, but as in **Matthew 7:23** when Jesus said, "Depart from me, I never knew you." Certainly He knows everything there is to know about you. What is meant in that passage is that He never approved of you. It literally means, "Even though I know you, and am aware of every little detail about you, you must depart from me because I do **not approve** of you."

**C. Luke 14:27** -- any one who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

1. Count the cost (Luke 14:28-33) The terms of another king coming involves submission to the terms of peace required by the King.
2. The crowds in Jerusalem desired peace, but through their own way, through conflict. Jesus was offering them peace in conflict.

D. **Luke 13:34**, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!" And the city of Jerusalem, whose name means founded peaceful, refused Jesus' terms. Why? It was because **they wanted to set the terms of peace.**

E. We do the same... we want peace... blessings, but at the same time we want to do it our own way in order to get them. In essence, the attitude is, "God, I want peace and blessings, and I'm going to do this, and that, and the other, because that's how I want to handle it. And Lord, your job it to just bless me in my actions.

1. Some try to get to heaven on their own terms
2. Jesus was clear when He said, **'I am the way, and no man comes to the Father but by Him.'** But, time and time again you have refused His terms. There is a way that seems right to man, but the end of it is destruction. Why? **It is because you refuse to accept His terms.** Jesus is the only way; the only provision for salvation has already been made. The blood that was shed on the cross of Calvary is the only means whereby you can be forgiven of sin, and it is the righteousness of Christ that must be applied to you if you desire

to be in Heaven for eternity.

F. Some were there for the PARTY.

1. **John 12:9 (NIV)** Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
2. These people were **there to see the show**, not to see the Master. They wanted to know what was going on, they weren't really interested in why Jesus was there. These are people who were half-sincere seekers. They see the crowd gathering at the dinner Jesus was attending, and they wanted to be a part of the party.
3. **Mark 7:6 (NIV)** He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
4. **John 12:20-21 (NIV)** Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."
5. Isn't that why some people come to church today, to see the show and join the party? They don't come to worship the King, but they come to see who's singing. They come because their friends are there. They come to socialize. They come, maybe, to see if they, like Lazarus, can get in on the good stuff. And look out if there's food. Don't get in the way or you might get knocked down if there's a meal. They're there to get what they can, not to worship the King. They're there to see the miracles, not to see the King.

G. The next day was no PARTY. (Lk. 19:45.Mt. 21:12)

1. He demanded that his house would be called a house of prayer, but to him it looked more like a commercial enterprise instead of a place to encounter God.

## **V. They did not realize that rejecting God's way brought judgment.**

**A. 19:43,44**, judgment came in 70 A.D.

1. In 70A.D, a Roman general named Titus, set siege against Jerusalem because they did finally revolt. The people did it their way. They went according to their purpose, they acted upon their terms, and it brought about judgment.
2. According to the historian, Josephus, over one million Jews were killed. He recorded that the blood flowed down the steps leading up to the temple, just like water. The temple was destroyed.

## **VI. Conclusion**

- A. They would not recognize his purpose, accept his terms, and so they were judged.
- B. They wanted things their way, and so the cheering stopped... and a week later they rejected their savior, and eventually judgment
- C. You cannot approach God on your own terms, but must come through Jesus
- D. You cannot come to God on your own time... No man comes to me unless the Father draws him. They missed the day of visitation
- E. When you come to Him you must accept his claims and terms... he is the Son of God, sacrifice for sin,, Lord and Savior who looks for you to surrender your entire life.
- F. If you refuse these things, the opportunity may be nailed shut, and it may be left for you to hear... "it's too late."
- G. Maybe your life has been self centered instead of God centered. You are saved, but doing things on your own, in your own strength. It's time to surrender.

There is a legend about an ancient village in Spain. The villagers learned that the king would pay a visit! In a thousand years, a king had never come to that village. Excitement grew! "We

must throw a big celebration," The villagers all agreed. But, it was a poor village, and there weren't many resources. Someone came up with a classic idea. Since many of the villagers made their own wines, the idea was for everyone in the village bring a large cup of their choice wine to the town square, "We'll pour it into a large vat and offer it to the king for his pleasure! When the king draws wine to drink, it will be the very best he's ever tasted!"

The day before the king's arrival, hundreds of people lined up to make their offering to the honored guest. They climbed a small stairway, and poured their gift through a small opening at the top. Finally, the vat was full! The King arrived, was escorted to the square, given a silver cup and was told to draw some wine, which represented the best the villagers had.

He placed the cup under the spigot, turned the handle, and then drank the wine, but it was nothing more than water. You see every villager reasoned, "I'll withhold my best wine and substitute water, what with so many cups of wine in the vat, the king will never know the difference!" The problem was, everyone thought the same thing, and the king was greatly dishonored.