

Introduction:

- Palm Sunday - the day we know as the Sunday before Passover/Easter or the week before Jesus' crucifixion. It is the Sunday that Jesus rides into town!
- "I remember hearing about a well-known preacher that was walking with his son. A man approached them and started talking to the preacher. At one point the man asked the preacher his opinion of another man that had been at great odds with him. The preacher said something along the lines of "I think that he is a good man." Not long after that the man went on his way. Once the father and son were alone again, the son looked up at his dad and said "I thought that man hated you and couldn't stand you. Why were you so complimentary toward him when you were asked what you thought of him?" To which the preacher said, "Because son, I wasn't asked what his opinion was of me, but what my opinion was of him." **APPLICATION**
- What a great example of meekness! Many people think that meekness is weakness, but it couldn't be further from what the word means. Meekness is controlled strength. A horse hasn't lost its strength when it gets harnessed, it has gained usefulness, and not lost one ounce of strength. When we choose to direct our power to be constructive rather than destructive, that does not display weakness but meekness - controlled strength. Did not Solomon say in Proverbs 16:32 "*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that taketh a city?*" Illustration Exchange. Charles Schuyler.
- "*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*" (Matthew 5:5, ESV)
- Matthew 21:1-11; (Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19)

I. The Beauty of Meekness

A. The King Has Arrived - such a powerful picture! "The hour has come!"

1. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, a beast of burden, a beast ordained to serve.
2. A foal/colt was a donkey that had never been ridden. That was the only kind of donkey that was fit for a king. It was also a symbol of a king who comes in peace.
3. Jesus did not come on a white horse (war) He came on a donkey.
 - a) At times, David rode a donkey as king. 1 Kings 1:33 David says for Solomon to ride his donkey when crowned king.
 - b) Solomon his son became king riding in on a donkey. 1 Kings 1:33
 - c) People threw down their cloaks and branches as a symbol of submission not knowing the level to Lordship that Jesus would ask of them.
4. Jesus riding into Jerusalem on donkey was announcing, "The King Is Here!" He did not hide it any longer. He let them shout, Hosanna to the King,
 - a) Prior to He avoided drawing attention to himself.
 - b) Prior to He avoided drawing human praise or approval for His advantage.

- c) Now He is humbly 'shouting' your King is here and He loves you. (Phil 2:5-11)
- B. Jesus is the beautiful picture of meekness, itself.
1. Why? Because He who holds all authority is calmly riding into the city of Jerusalem to offer Himself up to death on a cross. Not because He was guilty but because we were guilty and He was choosing to take our place.
 2. "Meekness is power under control. It is the restraint of power for the accomplishment of a higher cause. Meekness is possessing power, yet refraining from using it. Jesus chose to be meek for redemptive purpose, for love." Excellencies of Christ, p. 151.
 - a) He could have called 12 legions of angels but did not (MT 26;53). A legion was a Roman term that spoke of 6,000 soldiers. 12 legions is 72,000 soldiers. "Isaiah 37:36 records that a single angel obliterated 185,000 men in one night. So if a single angel had that kind of power, how much combined strength would there be in twelve legions of angels? Since a single angel was able to obliterate 185,000 men in one night, it would mean the combined strength in a legion of 6,000 angels would be enough to destroy 1,110,000,000 men (that is, one billion, one hundred ten million men) – and that's just the combined power in *one* legion of angels!" Rick Renner.org. Jesus said that Father would send more than 12 legions!
 - b) Pilate said to Jesus, "Do you know that I have power to crucify you?" Jesus did not bat an eye but said, "You only have power because Father gives it to you."
 - c) Meekness is power under control.
 3. Meekness is love openly displayed! How could this one man Jesus, be so strong and yet so tender as to stoop so low to death on a cross. This tenderness on the part of Jesus wins the human heart. One touched by this kind of love is secured forever in the hands of a gracious God!
- C. Meek is who He is!
1. Mark 10:45 He came to serve not be served! And gave his life a ransom for many.
 2. He washed the dirty feet of the disciples!
 3. He described himself as meek: Matthew 11:28-30. ..."*I am gentle and lowly in heart.*" Come to me.

II. The Scripture Declared It

- A. *"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."* (Zechariah 9:9, ESV). Most often quoted.
- B. Another Messianic passage is Ps 118:19-ff: The eastern gate, the gate of mercy is the one Jesus road through into Jerusalem.

1. *"Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord."* (Psalm 118:19, ESV). When you entered the gate of mercy you always gave thanks! And the righteous ones, along with Jesus, did that!
 2. *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* (Psalm 118:22, ESV). Jesus is the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).
 - a) vs 23 this is the Lords doing,
 - b) and it is marvelous to our eyes!
 3. This is the day...the day Jesus rides into Jerusalem! *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24, ESV). This is a messianic passage! The Lords doing, marvelous to our eye, Let us rejoice!
 4. Though rejected by the people, He was blessed Who came in the name of the Lord. *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord."* (Psalm 118:26, ESV)
- C. Abraham and Isaac
1. Genesis 22:1 Take now your son you one and only son. Go to land of Moriah. Temple mount.
 2. Genesis 22:3 Abraham saddled his donkey. Rode until almost there. Told servants to stay with donkey.
 3. Genesis 22:5,6 Put the wood upon Isaacs back. Ie. The Cross upon Jesus.
 4. Genesis 22:5 what faith! We will worship and return! Abraham knew God would raise up His Son!
 5. This story of redemption is all through the Bible!

III. The Power of Meekness

- A. Meekness flows out of surrender. Psalm 37:5-ff Characteristic of the meek:
1. They trust God (5b).
 - a) Meekness begins by trusting God.
 2. They commit their way to him (5a).
 - a) Meekness it commits its way to the Lord in the confidence that He will use his power and mercy to do good for us.
 3. They are quiet before God and wait for him. (7a).
 - a) Meekness waits patiently and quietly for the outcome.
 4. They do not fret over the wicked. (7b).
 - a) Meekness does not give way to anger and fretfulness when faced with opposition and setbacks.
- B. Surrender flows into power.
1. Silent lamb led to the slaughter.
 2. Silent before His accusers.

3. Resurrected from the tomb!

Conclusion:

- Like our opening illustration: You may have an opinion about Jesus, but His opinion of you is what really matters. He loves you though you are still not in the right place. He died for you.
- Jesus is not an intimidator of sinners. He is accused of being friends of sinners though. Look how He interacts with lost people in the Gospels.
- When Jesus approaches our lives, we have three possible reactions: praise Him for wrong reasons, resist Him, or humbly accept Him.
 - Praise Him for what we can get
 - Resist Him by rejecting Him
 - Accept Him for who He really is.