



EASTER ALIVE

Matthew 21:1-15
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Palm Sunday

April 13-14, 2019
NCCC

❖ Focus

- For Jesus to be King of our life we have to accept that he comes in both gentleness and strength, and He will overthrow the status quo to restore God to the throne of our lives.

❖ First Side: Gentleness (21:4-5)

- Jesus rides in on a donkey instead of a warhorse.
- God reveals himself in humble, gentle and gracious ways (Matthew 5:45 MSG)
- God is gently revealing himself to you when...
 - You stand ravished by the irresistible beauty of a sunset
 - You sigh with relief as the rains fill our water reservoirs and put our long draught behind us
- Jesus comes in gentleness because every one of us is broken in some way: in our relationships, our bodies, our minds, our emotions, and in our souls.
- He does not come to CONQUER us, but instead he comes to HEAL us and make us whole. (Matthew 11:28-30)
- It can be hard to accept Jesus' gentleness and grace:
 - We prefer to beat ourselves up. God looks at me with disgust and disappointment.
 - We prefer to fluff ourselves up. We don't need it. (Self-reliance, pride)
 - In both cases, Jesus' gentleness helps us face our brokenness without fear.

❖ Second Side: Strength (21:12)

- In this same day, Jesus also raises havoc...turning the whole scene upside down. His grievance is two-fold:
 1. Buying and selling. Gentile courts where non-Jewish people are supposed to be able to pray. Distraction and barrier to prayer. Not a place just for them.
 2. Inflated prices and exchange rates. Ripping the people off for unjust gain. The religious leaders benefited from that profit. Injustice.
- The temple was meant to be the intersection of heaven and earth, where the world would find its way back to God. But it has lost its purpose.
- When Jesus speaks into our life to call us back to our purpose, it creates a crisis of faith in us. (Romans 2:3-4 MSG)
- Jesus didn't come to give us nice life tips or cool life hacks. He came to call us into a life of radical change. To upset our status quo.
- When his purpose conflicts with ours, it's always a crisis to allow him to realign us with his Kingdom.
- There is a drift in all of our lives away from a God-centered lifestyle to a Self-centered lifestyle.
- QUOTE: "People of the future may suffer not from an absence of choice but from a paralyzing excess of it. They may turn out to be victims of...overchoice."
- Jesus was clear about his purpose:
 - "For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."
 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- And Jesus is clear what your purpose is when you become his follower:
 - Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
- This purpose is not meant to be a burden...but it can feel that when when it conflicts with our own.
 - Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”