

The tension, oppression, and conflict of that day between the Romans and the Jews was maybe not too unlike what we are experiencing today - the uncertainty of what God is going to do. Where is God? Are these the end times?

Matthew 21:1-11 The triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. Jesus, the Messiah – there were rumors of this being the one who would deliver Israel from the rulership of the Romans and set up an earthly kingdom. So, there was anticipation of what was going to come about with this entry. This entry was marked by less than what a king might expect – on a borrowed donkey, on the coats of the least of these, yet fitting for the least to be the greatest.

Matthew 21:1-3 *When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."*

1) Nothing is hidden from God. What is the value of this for us today? It's the miracle of nothing being unseen to Jesus. We ask if Jesus even sees my circumstances? *Jesus sent two disciples.* We still serve a God who sends imperfect people. No matter what position you are in today - uncertainty, fear, concern where my life is - Jesus is still in the habit of sending imperfect people. Today, we are being placed in a unique position to go out in the fear and the uncertainty. But what we believe about Jesus, His Word, and His calling will determine the confidence and the peace we take out to these places. The world is looking for peace and for people that have a confidence. Jesus knew where to find the donkey and also knew the questions that would be asked. It was like the uncertainty that Abraham had when asked to leave his homeland - listening only to God's direction. Jesus often is giving a response to us as we have a willingness to listen. Desire and seek the answers in God's Word. The answers can be found in God's Word. **Matthew 7:7** *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Nothing about our challenges, this time, this uncertainty - Jesus is not unaware! Are we reminding Jesus about the position we are in? reminding Jesus of our worry of our fears? reminding Him of what is happening in our situation? We get caught up in what lies ahead because we can't see it. But no matter where we are at, God sees our situation and the end of our situation!

Do we have a peace over all that is going on? Do we question why we're not worried? Even in the midst of God's peace, we can worry that we are undeserving of God's peace, but let God recount His faithfulness in our own lives. If asking questions of God, be willing for God to speak into those moments. Often, we take our burdens and attempt to lay them down but then carry it back with us because we don't wait for His Word to us. God's faithfulness to speak to us is real if we take the time to listen to Him. The great truth is that God is bound to His Word. He is faithful and just!

2) God's Word is Faithful. Matthew 21:4-5 *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" These words were from the prophet, Zechariah, and were a promise. Have we questioned whether God can get us through our current circumstances? We serve a great God who holds it all in His hands. The world is looking to the church – the strength of the body of Christ. The faithfulness of God goes beyond our circumstances. Today's struggle has a beginning but also an end - so recount the times of faithfulness.*

The words of Zechariah have 5 points of fulfillment some 500 years later. **Zechariah 9:9** *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the Earth.*

- *Rejoice greatly* - Shouting Hosanna
- *Daughter of Zion* - Jesus entering into Jerusalem
- *See your King is coming* - Jesus is the King of Kings
- *Righteousness and salvation* - Jesus fulfilled the promise of salvation
- *Gentle and riding on a donkey* - the symbol of peace

God is real and faithful to fulfill His promises in our lives. **Lamentations 3:22-23** *The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* We have a right to expect the promises of God in our lives. We are heirs to the promises of God. We are in His presence every moment.

- **Hebrews 13:5** ...for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.
- **John 15:26** When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.
- **John 16:33** These things I have 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.
- **James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Do you feel like your faith is being tested? Has your beliefs fallen on uncertain outcomes? Taking joy is taking a confidence knowing that a testing produces patience, to wisdom, to a perfect result in our life. Understanding your position determines your posture. Being confident of our calling allows us to stand with a confidence that is foreign to the world.

3) There was emptiness in people's words. Matthew 21:9-11 *The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."*

The disciples, after three years of following Jesus, were seeing this finally happening. But those in authority were always coming against this Messiah. These same people who shouted "Hosanna," would soon be shouting "crucify." It shows just how fickle the world around us can be. Just like today - something changes everyday in the news with this pandemic. It is easy to get caught up in what we are hearing - the voices compete for the voice of God in our lives. Jesus had already told his disciples where He was going – what the outcome would be. Same for us - how much of our confusion, stress, or concern, is more a result of what we are hearing around us rather than from our Father. Our God is not distant. He desires to speak to us and have a relationship with us. How much are we listening to the peripheral rather than to our God? Jesus told His disciples His reasons for going to Jerusalem, but they couldn't hear it because of the noise of what was around. Is the noise of today's circumstances drowning out the voice of God in our own lives? We need to turn the volume down, to get away from constant updates, or the addiction to the news reports. Nothing in the Kingdom of Heaven has changed. His promises are still true. The good things are still available. He is faithful. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Listen to the voice that is often spoken in the quiet moments of our heart when we strip away everything. The circumstances of the world don't change the faithfulness of God.

Elijah broke away to be alone. **I Kings 19** As he was listening, He determined that God was not in the wind; God wasn't in the earthquake; then the gentle blowing – God was speaking to His servant. Have we allowed ourselves moments of gentle blowing? of pulling away from all the finances, news, kids, uncertainty of jobs? Have we given God the opportunity to speak? God wants to communicate with His people. His peace wants to fill every void and uncertainty. His peace pushes out all of the concerns of this world. Find the moments of silence to hear His words for us.

God knows where we are. He is aware; He has heard your cry; He knows the pressure of being strong for others; He comes as the great comforter to be with us in the midst; His presence is real; and His promises are true. His faithfulness will carry us through the future. He is faithful!

Jesus fulfilled prophecy - Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey and He went out of Jerusalem on a cross. There is a day coming that He will come back on a horse and victory will be had for all those who call Him by name. This is not the end. The church of God was built for moments of adversity so that she might establish a better way as we allow God to transform those areas of our lives.

God's Word is for everyone. Seek and you will find. **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life!!*

Have you made Jesus Lord of your life?

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe that on that cross You took my guilt, my sin, and my shame and You died for it. You faced hell for me, so I wouldn't have to. And You rose again to give me a place in Heaven, a purpose on Earth, and a relationship with Your Father. Today, Lord Jesus, I turn from my sins to be born again. And now, God is my father, Jesus is my Savior, The Holy Spirit is my helper. And Heaven is my home. Amen.

How are today's circumstances affecting you? What do you do to hear God's voice? How are you being encouraged and how are you being an encouragement to others?