

The Wrong Agenda

(Luke 19:28-48)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. [Luke 19:28-35] 3 years into His ministry, Jesus at last reaches Jerusalem on a Sunday (cf. Luke 9:51).
 - a. Jesus prophetically fulfills Zec 9:9, riding into the city of Kings on a donkey colt.
 - b. [36-38] The fans lay their coats on the road in homage to the King (cf. 2 Kgs 9:13), declaring the peace of God has come down from Heaven to earth.
 - c. [39] Opposite side of the field: Religious people oppose Jesus.
 - d. [40] All creation was made to worship Him as Lord/King; stones would cry out if people didn't!

The people were blinded by their own agenda [Luke 19:41-44]

1. [41-42] Jesus' weird response to the celebration
 - a. [41] Wailing & uncontrollable sobbing (cf. 7:12-13).
 - b. [42] Why? The people anticipate God's peace, but they missed it because they're spiritually blind.
 - c. They will not recognize the rightful King (cf. John 1:11; Luke 13:34).
2. [43-44] Consequence of rejecting the King.
 - a. Because they reject the visitation of the King (cf. 1:68), God withdraws the protection of the King.
 - b. Jesus prophesies the city of Kings will be obliterated.
 - i. 40 years later (70 AD), Roman military siege & utter destruction of Jerusalem.
 - c. The very stones left standing cry out the truth about King Jesus.
3. But aren't they proclaiming Jesus King?
 - a. Within a week, most will call for His execution. Why?
 - b. Jesus doesn't give them what they want/expect from Him as King.
 - c. Because they're blinded by their own agenda over His, they will miss out on what they want... they will miss out on Him.
4. There are 3 types of people in the inaugural crowd
 - a. Committed followers: They know, love, treasure, worship the King.
 - b. Enemies: They hate what the King represents.
 - c. Bandwagon:
 - i. They don't know Jesus.
 - ii. Their interest: "What's in it for me? What can I get out of this?"
5. Is that you with Jesus? "What can I get out of Him?"
 - a. Many come seeking the blessing, but not the Blessor. Jesus is Lord, God, Savior, & a trustworthy King.
 - b. There's a King who loves you; you're in rebellion against Him (sin), which carries a death sentence.
 - c. We come with our own, wrong agendas for the King, because we don't know & honor Him as King.
 - d. Application: What's your agenda for Jesus?
 - i. Do you really know Him?
 - ii. Do you use the King? Or love, trust & serve Him as King?

Agendas are driven by what we worship [Luke 19:45-48]

1. [45] The spiritual heart of the city/people: The Temple
 - a. The next day (Monday), Jesus goes straight to the heart of the problem: At the temple.
 - i. He is livid & drives out all the shop owners at the Temple. Why?
 - b. The Temple: Sacred connection point between Heaven & earth; where people met with the presence of God.
 - i. Where sin is atoned through sacrifice, because the cost of sin is death.
 - c. The Court of Gentiles in the Temple was turned into a business center.
 - i. Priests sold franchises, with shops charging exorbitant prices, priests skimming the profits.
2. [46] The spiritual heart of the problem: Worship
 - a. Jesus calls this robbery/extortion by the priests.
 - i. On the surface, it looks like they were providing for worship, but it was wicked/corrupt.
 - ii. **Religion: The false appearance of worship, minus the worship.**
 - iii. Jesus does not stand for religion, false pretense & man-made traditions & rules.
 - b. Jesus' house should be one of prayer (cf. Isa 56:7)
 - i. Intimate relationship/conversation with God
 1. Includes confession/repentance for relational reconciliation with Him
 2. Includes your requests because of your relationship with a good Father & King
 - ii. Worship through thanksgiving, appreciation, honor, praise
 1. Prayer (not song) was the primary form of worship during Biblical times
 - iii. **Prayer: Genuine worship through a relationship with God.**
 - c. The people didn't know the things that made for peace with God; Jerusalem was doomed; the people had the wrong agenda for the King; all because their worship was corrupt.
3. Agendas are driven by what we worship
 - a. Worship always reveals what we prioritize in life; we all give ourselves to someone or something.
 - b. Application: Where do your dollars/days go? Your treasure always flows to where your heart is (worship).
 - c. Somewhere along the way, the priests decided to worship money over Jesus as King.
 - i. They had the appearance of worship, minus the worship.
 - d. Is that you? Do you attend church, sing, say the right things, even pray, but it's just appearance of worship?
4. [47-48] Tuesday, Jesus returns & reclaims the Temple, filling it with His truth.
 - a. Jesus not only removes spiritual cancer from Temple worship, He also reclaims the Temple & people by filling them with His restorative, redeeming truth as King.
 - b. Jesus wants to cleanse your temple (what you worship, how you prioritize the King), and bring you close to God, His way.
5. Application: Jesus invites you to rediscover true worship in intimate conversation with the King.
 - a. Spend a few moments in worship/prayer: Tell Him what you appreciate about Him, what you're thankful for; proclaim His goodness, mercy, kindness.
 - b. Bring your brokenness to Him: "You are holy; I am not. You are God; I am not. You are King; I am not."
 - c. If you don't know Jesus, you can receive Him as your King, Friend, Savior in prayer.