**Paradox of Peace**

**Luke 19**

**ME/WE:** Del reading **Luke 19:28-48**…**intro video**…today is known as Palm Sunday or specifically for us the **Triumphal Entry** and as we are approaching Holy Week our journey through the gospel of Luke is quickly coming to an end so one more request with the chalk board…sometime before Jared closes out our Easter service next week please write something down you have learned (head and heart) about Jesus that you did not previously know…our story this morning may or may not be familiar to you concerning Jesus but it is one that is extremely important in understanding who He is and what He stands for… and to apply this text to our day and age takes some **courage** and **cultivation…**as Luke 18 was a chapter filled with contrasts so Luke 19 is filled with contrasts as well…the chapter begins with the story of Zacchaeus with the outcome of this event being bold and extremely encouraging…because Zacchaeus repented of his ways…returned much of his wealth back to the poor…and repented specifically with his financial swindling…and Jesus declares because of this response this son of Abraham is no longer lost…”salvation has come to this house”…but the rest of the chapter is not about salvation but judgment…judgment that does not lead towards salvation but instead destruction…next scene is a parable about judgment and what one does with what has been given to them (individuals and groups) that parable sucks the air out of the room and leaves one feeling uncomfortable and it dawned of me this week while preparing how often I have fallen into the trap of thinking that Jesus wants me comfortable and safe…but instead what He is calling me into is courage and cultivation…

**GOD/YOU/WE:** If you did not know the triumphal entry story how would you imagine your hero/your rescuer ringing into the capital city? Jesus rides on a colt that has never been ridden…prophetic theatre is unfolding right in front of our eyes along with some satire…**the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize someone(s) foolishness or vices particularly in regards to politics and/or other social issues**…in celebrating championships teams ride on what…Presidents ride in…what would happen if President whoever in 2024 paraded down the streets of Washington on a donkey?? What is unfolding with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt is satire…Roman emperors do not ride on donkeys…important dignitaries do not ride on colts…they ride on impressive, decorated, massive, symbol-of-power steeds and bullet proof armored suvs…Jesus’ way of power is not Rome’s; His rule and reign is not their empire; His kingship is not the emperor’s…but what else is unfolding in front of our eyes is Scripture being filled full of meaning…**Zechariah 9:9**…and the crowds cheer from the hope filled anticipation of **Psalm 118:26** and surprisingly from **Luke 2:14**…SOME of the Pharisees respond with rebuke but Jesus replies with if they do not creation will…and as Jesus approaches Jerusalem we get a glimpse of His heart...**19:42-44**...Jesus knows what is going to take place in some 40 yrs when Titus and the Roman military might come crashing down on Jerusalem destroying the city and all but completely leveling the temple in 70 AD…Jesus’ statement once again brings to mind and heart the issue of spiritual blindness…they could not see the incoming doom upon the city and temple…but judgment is upon them because they did not recognize the time of God’s visitation…peace was at their doorstep yet they did not see it, nor recognize it because they were blind, distracted, consumed with assumptions and false pretenses…judgment is not a pleasant subject and as we can tell Jesus takes no delight here…He weeps for Jerusalem as He thinks and speaks about what is to take place…you may recall that Jerusalem literally means “a foundation of peace”…peace is elusive…we try to find peace in all kinds of things…there is a peace that passes all understanding Paul encourages us and that peace is not a philosophy, a product, a false and corrupt approach to sexuality, that peace is not a reliance on power or control…this peace that passes understanding is a person…and that person is and always will be Jesus…nothing and no one else will ever be able to provide peace outside of Him…again Luke’s gospel is a **paradox…**

The cleansing of the temple in 19:45-47 is one action packed episode where Jesus flexes His God-honoring true righteousness anger and judgment upon the state of the temple and her representatives (**Isaiah 56:7**—exploitation of the poor and vulnerable and Jeremiah 7:11—using the temple as safe space to hide and then go back out in the world and do business as usual) Jesus is calling out the hypocrisy and acting of God’s people with the use of some civil disobedience…not necessarily a go and do likewise…but there is something here for us…Jesus never once instructs His followers to be passive in the world…we need Christian pacifists…and we need Christian disruptors…not necessarily warmongers…but civil disobedience…think of Moses, Daniel, Peter & Paul, David Lipscomb, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Clarence Jordan, Martin Luther King, …remember this statement from Luke **Acts 5:29**…the world’s hostilities, the world’s violence, the world’s retribution, the world’s insecurities, the world’s false and fake tolerances, the world’s lies…and it’s not going away…

Three things we must accept and pursue…

**(1) Practicing courage**…you and I need to learn how to be uncomfortable and courageous in this world…**Deuteronomy 31:6**

**(2): Speak up…speak up about truth and not just “your truth” but the truth as revealed in and through Jesus…but we speak His truth in love…Ephesians 4:15**

**(3): Practice peacemaking…peace giving…peace receiving…**

**And none of this is easy…but this is what we are called to…**