

**Luke 19: 28-40; "Loosing the Colt", A Palm Sunday Sermon**  
**Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010,**  
**In the Morning Worship Service.**

There were, it says in this passage, a whole multitude of disciples who began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen. They praised Him as their King. And Jesus commends them for doing this. They, like all men who considered Jesus carefully; would only come to understand and to know later on; after He suffered; after He died; and after He rose again; just how great their own sinfulness was, and how absolutely necessary it was going to be; that Jesus go up to Jerusalem to die for them. The same is true with people today in terms of their receiving Christ and receiving the gospel. Many people do not understand why Jesus had to die for them; but they like the pageantry of Palm Sunday. When I was young I went to First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa. It was a great time to be alive. And it was a great time to be in church. Many people went to church every Sunday in American society in that time period of the 1950s. We, as a family were no different. I was involved in all the choirs from the time that we began going there in 1957 until I went away to college. I remember that on a certain Palm Sunday, somewhere in the mid-60s, that all of us who were in the choir each received a palm frond to hold as we marched around the Sanctuary, singing some of the great old hymns of the faith. It really was a beautiful sight to everyone there that day. And yet how many really knew Christ in that congregation back then; only God knows. It was a pretty weak gospel that was being preached there, even though there were so many good people in the congregation in a human sense. And yet many of them did not ever speak of the need that we children had, of being savingly brought to faith in Jesus Christ through being born again and converted unto God. We were not told of our native depravity; that we were sinners who needed a Savior. We were not told that God was expecting us to submit our life to His righteous rule over us, by our believing in Christ and keeping His Word the Bible. I do not recall that these things were much spoken of at all there. It was more Jesus' example; His love for people in an earthly, un-judgmental sense that was spoken of. Palm Sunday was a joyous occasion, and yet; in some ways, the way that we observed it, then, was disconnected to the events of the cross that followed, events which relate to the salvation of each one who believes in Him. I do not want this for you, so this morning I would like you to come with me and look at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the way that Bible portrays it.

I want to ask the question this morning; How does the colt being loosed in that day show forth the truth that the praise of God's people does service to Christ and His Kingdom? And we must further ask; How does the colt's being loosed

glorify God today? I want to link the colt's being loosed to your praise being loosed. I believe that if we think about what happened here, that we can see that there are 3 reasons from this passage which will show us this truth of why the colt needed to be loosed then, and why it needs to be loosed even today, spiritually speaking, in God's people learning to praise Him for all that Christ has done for them. 1<sup>st</sup> of all – The colt needed to be loosed because Jesus had need of him. (Verses 30-34) 2ndly – The colt needed to be loosed because those who had believed wanted to honor their King. (Verses 35-38) And then 3rdly – The colt needed to be loosed because Christ's disciples must praise Him, or God would not be pleased with them. They would have failed in the duty to which they were called, when God saved them through Christ. (Verses 39 and 40) So let us look together now, more closely at the 3 reasons why the colt needed to be loosed, then and now.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – The colt needed to be loosed because Jesus had need of him.**

Verse 28 says, "When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem." "And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, 'Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat.' "Loose it and bring it here." "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.'" The Lord had need of this colt to ride upon as He entered into Jerusalem. Riding this colt was a picture of His humility and His lowliness; a picture of how He would ride to victory. He would ride to victory by humbling Himself to the point of death; even the death of the cross. He would come into Jerusalem even though His enemies wanted to kill Him. His willingness to suffer as a King, for the sinners whom He would bring into His eternal kingdom and give eternal life; was shown forth in this lowly but beautiful way. Even as Jesus had need of this colt to ride into Jerusalem on; even so He also had need of his disciples to rejoice over Him and to praise Him for His mighty works that He had already done before that day when He came into Jerusalem. The colt is a symbol of how the Lord Jesus triumphed, even before He went to the cross, in the hearts of many people. The colt is the symbol of how He triumphs even today. Jesus has need of the colt. Jesus had a need that day when He rode on that colt; to have a foretaste of what His sufferings would purchase and win; even the praises of those who were thankful for Him. By His great love for fallen sinners, and His obedience to God's law in everything, King Jesus had done many mighty works; and those works glorified God. And they had brought gladness to the hearts and minds of many people then. And it is still the same today; even now, when Christ's purchased people praise Him for His love for them as sinners. He still does have a need, for you, O believer, to rejoice over Him and to praise Him for His mighty works which He has done for you.

This is how He triumphs amidst the oppositions of self-righteous men who hate Him. You who believe in Him are like the colt which He has loosed; that He might ride in triumph upon your praises. This is how God is glorified by His

people; when they praise their King when others do not. This is one of the great ways that His cause and Kingdom go forward to triumph in the world today, and in every generation; when God's people see that their praise does do Christ and His kingdom service. Christ has need of you, in this great work of praise. Psalm 106, verse 2 says, "Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?" "And who can declare all His praise?" Psalm 116, verse 16 says, "O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds." "I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the Lord."

Let me ask you this morning if this is you? Have your bonds been loosed? Are you the colt who has been unloosed? Can the Lord Jesus ride upon your praises for Him? Will you help further His kingdom and His glory? The Lord Jesus has need of you. Jesus' determination from the beginning of His ministry was to go to the cross to die for the sins of everyone who would believe in Him. Jerusalem would be the place where this would happen. In Luke 13: 33 He said, "Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem." His disciples did not understand the reasons why their Master; their Teacher; the Lord of Glory whom they loved; should have to suffer and die. He had plainly told them so in Luke 9: 22 after Peter had confessed that He was the Christ. He said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." In Luke 18: 34 it says that "they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken." You see; they loved the Lord Jesus, and they wanted Him to live and to be King without having to suffer. Couldn't He just be a teacher? They were practical men. They were observant men. They were men of common sense. They had come to know the Lord Jesus as a wise and holy and loving spiritual King. That is what His disciples shouted on the day of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Verse 38 relates that they shouted, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" It was something that had come to them before; by revelation given to them by the Holy Spirit; that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. But even when they had first met Him, and as they continued to follow Him, they saw someone who was Holy and good in His character as a man. They saw a love for God and for keeping His commandments. And they saw a love for men; that He was willing to help them with the worst of their problems. And as they followed Him, they saw His mighty works; they heard His parables and they were astonished by His teaching. They wanted very much to believe that the Lord Jesus could indeed be the promised King, the Messiah, which they had heard their religious leaders say was coming to deliver them from all oppression. They had come to know Him as the great Physician who could take away all of their diseases. They had been there and had seen Him feed the multitudes with five loaves and two fishes. They believed that anyone looking at Him should be able to be convinced that He was good man, and that His teaching should be received. They hoped that in the end, that He would not have to suffer

and die as He had told them that He most certainly would. They didn't realize that Jesus needed them, not only to tell others of what He had taught which was true; in regard to what was right and wrong; good and bad. He needed them to convey the truth to others that He the Lord of glory had to suffer so that all people; no matter how good they were in a human sense; needed to receive the merit of His sufferings for them; His suffering on the cross as a substitute for them, so that they could be loosed to praise Him for the gift of eternal life. Do you remember the woman in Luke Chapter 13, verse 11? Jesus had been teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. "And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up." "But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.'" "And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God." She talked of His power; she talked of His compassion and His mercy to her. Let me ask you if you do this in relation to others. If He has loosed you of your infirmities and your sins; He has also loosed your tongue to speak of His mighty works.

**Now Secondly- The colt needed to be loosed because those who had believed wanted to honor their King.** (Verses 35 and 36) -

"Then they brought the colt to Jesus." "And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him." "And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road." This was evidently a token of their desire that they wanted Jesus to be their King. This was the sign of their entire approval of His ruling over them. In 2 Kings Chapter 9 we find an example of this same thing; taking of the garments and placing them under a man who had been anointed king. It says, "Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew the trumpets, saying, 'Jehu is king.'" The words, "put it under him" literally read, "put it under his feet." It is a form of showing allegiance to a king to take your garments and to throw them in his path and to let him walk over them. It is an act of declaring submission to that king's rule. In this particular case that we are studying, they first took the garments and put them on the colt; then they set Jesus on him. This was a coronation ceremony where a multitude of people joined together to make it known that He was their King. There may have been many there, in the multitude that day, who truly believed and wanted to submit to His righteous rule. There may have been some there who were looking for more of a political deliverer, than a spiritual King, but Jesus knew their hearts, and received this praise; knowing that the most of them were praising God for all the mighty works that they had seen.

Christ rides to victory when you openly and publicly declare your allegiance to Him; stating in no uncertain words, that you are for His Kingdom and His cause of Meekness, Truth, and righteousness. This is how you honor Him. You honor Him with an open and public declaration of your faith in the waters of Baptism. You honor Him thinking of Him and speaking of Him as your King when you are with other people. You want this Man to rule over you. Jesus had just been speaking a

parable to the disciples, just before the verses that we are studying this morning; He taught it to them when they were on the road coming up from Jericho to Bethphage. If you'll look back at verse 11 of Chapter 19, you will find that it was spoken because Jesus was drawing nearer to Jerusalem, and because the disciples thought that the kingdom of God would appear immediately. They thought that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to set up His Kingdom and His Messianic Rule at Jerusalem. And so, He told them a parable which would show them that this not going to happen for a long, long time. He told them the parable of the Minas. In this parable, He was telling his Apostles about Himself, and He was telling them about themselves as well; how He would employ them in His service; those whom He had given gifts to. It says in verse 12, "Therefore He said: 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.'" "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them 'Do business till I come.'" "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us." "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading." You can see here, that when the Lord speaks of a nobleman who went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and return; that He is speaking of Himself. He is the nobleman; the King of Glory who would by His going up to Jerusalem and dying on the cross, receive a Kingdom over which He would rule and be the Mediator. He was telling them that He would be going away and that they, the Apostles, and all the ministers of the gospel, and all those who received any gift from the Lord to serve Him, were to be his servants. His own citizens, the vast majority of the Jewish leaders and many of the people as well, hated Him and would not have Him to reign over them. He was telling them that He would be going back to heaven, where He had come from, and there He would receive a kingdom. He would sit down on the Father's right hand and then at some point in the distant future, He would return and settle accounts with each one whom He had given gifts to. He was saying to them that He had a need for them to faithful while He was gone.

Jesus has a need for people to be faithful with the gift that He gives them. Just as the colt who was loosed was serving a purpose of the Lord Jesus; carrying Him into Jerusalem; even so, you have a purpose as a believer. One of the great purposes for which you were called, is to use the gift that He has given to you, and not to let it lay idly by. This honors Christ. Luke 19: 16-27 shows us that we will be held accountable for whether we have gone and traded with what we have been given. Are we busy with what He has given us to do, is the question we need to ask ourselves. Verse 16 says, "Then came the first, saying , 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'" And he said to him, 'Well done good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'" "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'" "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'" "Then another came, saying, Master here is you mina,

which I have kept put away in a handkerchief." "For I feared you, because you are an austere man." "You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." "And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant.'" "You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow." "Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?" "And he said to those who stood by, take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas." ("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')" "For I say to you that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him." "But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me." It was just after Jesus had said this, that He went on ahead going up to Jerusalem.

So what is the point? The point, very simply is this; that Jesus needs you to carry Him and His gospel through your life's activities and labors in a way that shows Him, when He returns, that you have been faithful with the little that He gave you in terms of real power and spiritual giftedness. You are not to be lazy, you are not to be idle. You are to fulfill the purpose for which you were called. You are to serve Christ in this generation; you are to have something to show for it at the end of your life; on the Day of the Resurrection, when Christ returns from the far country. If you don't use what He has given to you, all that you have been given will be given to another who has been faithful, and your own laziness will condemn you. The Lord Jesus has need of you now. If you are faithful in a very little, He will reward you greatly. Your real allegiance to Him will be seen in your keeping busy for Him in a holy sense. This does not mean that you neglect your family, or fail to do your earthly work. It simply means that you use the gift and the abilities that God has given you, in relation to other people in His kingdom that need your help. You also use the gifts and grace that Christ has given you to speak to people outside of the kingdom to win them and to bring them into it. You do good works in relation to them so that your actions will speak just as loud than your words. If you hide away for safe-keeping, the gift that He has given to you; you have a problem. You have not understood why He has called you as a Christian. Perhaps you are thinking that somehow He is an austere man; He is supposedly to you, a hard man to work for. You knew that Jesus reaps where He did not sow and collects what He did not deposit. You did not even put what you had been given in the bank where He might have collected it with interest.

I take the bank in this parable to represent the church that you attend. It is possible that a person may not even use the gift that God has given him; to use it to be faithful in relation to the people in their own church. They may be perfectly selfish and self-centered in the way that they live their life. They can find a hundred reasons why they should not give money, or serve, or show mercy, or help others. Jesus calls this wickedness; when a person will not take the little that he or she has been given, and trade with it. It shows that that person's allegiance is not to King Jesus, but rather it is to the World. Ah, dear Christian, let it not be true of

you. If you are loyal to Him, you will "take your clothes and throw them on the colt" and let Jesus ride to glory in your life. You give to Him your time and your strength and definitely proportions of your money, and you learn to help others. You don't rationalize it all away as if God does not see; as if God does not care? As if Christ will not judge his people according to their deeds? He most certainly will; in a coming day when He personally and visibly returns. "He who honors Me," God says in 1 Samuel Chapter 2, verse 30, "I will honor." And so those people did honor Christ, on that day when He rode triumphant into Jerusalem on a colt. Let the colt loose in your life today, if he is not. Throw your garments on him and set Jesus there. Everything that you will become, that is good, you will owe to Him. But you live that way, striving to show your allegiance to Him by good works.

**Then 3rdly - The colt needed to be loosed because Christ's disciples must praise Him, or God would not be pleased with them.** (Verses 37-40)

"Verse 37 says, "Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" "And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.'" "But He answered and said to them, 'I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.'" We need to understand today, that to praise and worship the Lord Jesus Christ has always been controversial. It was on that day, and it is now. The question that I will ask you is this: Will you be silent and make God to cause the stones to cry out? God can most certainly cause the stones to cry out in praise to Jesus if need be, so that He will have the glory and praise that He deserves. Jesus never sought His own glory, but He deserves all of it, and is worthy of all the praise and honor and glory that we can give. "At all times I will bless the Lord, His praise my mouth employ." "My soul shall in Jehovah boast, the meek shall hear with joy." "Oh magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name." "In all my fears I sought the Lord; from His deliverance came." (*The book of Psalms for singing.* Psalm 34) To call Jesus your King and Lord has always been controversial. There were those there on that glorious day when Christ was coming in to Jerusalem, who did not want Him to be praised; who did not want Him to be their King. They certainly did not believe that Jesus Christ was God made manifest in the flesh. But the verses which the disciples used to justify their praise of the Lord Jesus came from Psalm 118, verse 25. "Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord I pray, send now prosperity." "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" They cried out "Hosanna", it says in John 12: 13. "Save, now, I pray, O Lord." But in Psalm 118, verse 27, it goes on to say, "God is the Lord, and He has given us light." Jesus is the light of the World, but He is also God. When God the Father gave His only-Begotten Son; He gave us His very heart; He gave us His very fullness. God is the Lord. Verse 27 goes on to say, "God is the Lord, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar." "You are my God, I will exalt You." Jesus is the sacrifice; He who was

bound with cords to the horns of the altar, but in this case His cords were to be nails. Now I ask you today; how can you exalt God without exalting the Lord Jesus Christ? God is the Lord. In Psalm 110, verse 1, it says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." "The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion, saying 'Rule in the midst of Your enemies.'" Jesus was already ruling in the midst of His enemies on this day of triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Is Jesus a lesser lord than God the Father? Is His Lordship spelled with a small "l" rather than a Capital "L"? No, it simply cannot be the case. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When the children of Israel came through the waters of the Red Sea and walked on dry ground, but the army of Pharaoh tried it and were destroyed; afterward they sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously!" "The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea.!" "The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

My question in closing is this? Will you today bless the King who comes in the name of the Lord? For if I am not mistaken, it is a great sin to be silent when you should be praising God the Father who gave His only-Begotten Son for your salvation. To not praise Him is to reject Him. But in praising Him you will find the most wonderful work that you can ever do. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Christian, if you would sing of the mercy you have already, you would soon have more." That is; that if you would begin to praise the Lord for what He does for you in the little things of life, you shall soon find reason for praising Him for everything in life. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. But most of all; will you not praise Him that He went up to Jerusalem that day triumphant? For He knew that He was going for you who believe in Him or who will believe in Him today. He went for the joy that was set before Him of enduring the cross and despising the shame for you so that you could have eternal life, and praise Him eternally for what He has done for you. Oh, that you might praise Him yet more and more for the help of His grace, His presence, His countenance. Someday you will be glad that you did so. But it doesn't have to be someday. It can be today.