

Along the Road – The King and the Kingdom Luke 19:28-40

Introduction:

Our journey with Jesus and his disciples, toward the destination of this great new ‘exodus’ of God and his redemptive plan for creation, is drawing to a close. In a direct and specific sense, the journey began with the declaration of the apostle Peter, that Jesus is the ‘messiah of God’ (Luke 9:20), gained momentum as Jesus pronounced that the ‘Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected, killed and then be raised to life’ (Luke 9:22) and crystallised with Jesus’ own physical activity that saw him resolutely set out for Jerusalem. There was no accidental misalignment here – this was the will God in bringing into place His rule and reign.

Sign-posts along the journey.

Take some time to read through the narrative that Luke provides, from 9:57 through to 19:27.

- Don’t be too focused on the detail – rather get a feel for the things that do point the way
- In particular, what is being said about two sub-themes within these ‘sign-posts’
 - In what way does Jesus issue and invitation to those he meets, to follow him or seriously consider the things of the Kingdom and,
 - In what way does Jesus issue challenges to those he meets?

Clarifying specific co-ordinates along the way.

1. The destination for the pilgrims traveling this road from Jericho to Jerusalem was one of the most significant festivals in the Jewish calendar – the Festival of the Passover. If you are part of a group looking at these questions, take time now to review the significance of the Passover and the connection with Jesus as the Lamb of God (Luke 22:7-23).
2. The colt of the donkey that Jesus asked his disciples to go and get, introduces the ‘royal messianic’ theme to this part of the journey;
 - a. Read Zechariah 9:9-17 and consider the connections, implications etc
 - b. What is the significance of Luke 19:37-39?
 - c. Look at Psalm 118:26-29. As background, the Ps would have been one sung as the King, returning from a great victory, would approach the temple of the great city, together with other pilgrims. On arrival, the priests would welcome the King and his entourage, in realization that the King came with the Lord’s approval. Look also at Luke 20:9-19
 - i. What do the disciples do with the Ps in chapter 19 and
 - ii. what does Jesus do with the Ps in chapter 20:17?
3. The willing obedience of the owners of the colt also shines a light on the theme of appropriate submission and obedience – discuss this theme in the light of what has happened along the journey.

Palm Sunday is perfected on the day of the great multitude (Rev 7:9-12)

1. Read over the passage of Rev 7; note the key linkages and connection points
2. In particular, what is the significance of the make up of the great multitude, especially in the light of Rev 21:1-5?