

Hidden in the Praises

Luke 19.41-44

Series: Holy Week

March 28, 2021

- I. The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat
 - A. **Vinko Bogataj** was famous
 1. Even Muhammad Ali asked him for his autograph
 - B. The occasion was the gala celebration commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the iconic TV show Wide World of Sports
 1. He received the loudest ovation of any athlete introduced at the celebration
 - a. He was stunned
 - b. The Slovenian athlete was completely unaware of his stature and celebrity
 - C. You remember Wide World of Sports on ABC
 1. Originated in 1961 and ran for 37 years on Saturday afternoons
 2. Narrated for most of that period by Jim McKay
 - a. “Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport... the thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat... the human drama of athletic competition...”
 - D. **“The thrill of victory... and the agony of defeat”**
 1. That iconic statement captured the essence of athletic competition at the highest level
 - a. Where athletes would commit themselves to extraordinary training regimens, put themselves into the elite levels of competition in a quest to become the best in the world
 - b. And when the final contest would unfold the full range of human emotions would emerge
 - c. Having expended every ounce of human energy possible, success or failure would elicit only the amazing highs of glorious achievement, or the deepest disappointment of loss
 2. The statement that best captured that dramatic contrast was the iconic “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat”
 - a. And we all resonate with the roller coaster of emotions represented by that phrase
 - b. We all remember it
 - c. We identify with it
 - E. So who is Vinko Bogataj?
 1. He is the ski jumper immortalized in the introductory video
 - a. When he tried to abort his third jump in the West German event in 1970 when the snowy conditions made the ramp dangerous
 - b. He lost his balance, tumbled off the end of the ramp, crashed through a retention fence near a crowd of spectators
 - c. Breaking an ankle and suffering a concussion
 2. And his fall was edited to sync with Jim McKay saying, “... and the agony

- of defeat”
- F. He would go home to Slovenia
1. Which did not receive broadcast television of the ABC network
 - a. And did not know that the images of his fall would be indelibly engraved on the minds of our entire generation of Americans
 - b. As representing the agony of defeat
 2. A vivid picture of disappointment and loss
 - a. With which so many of us can identify
 - b. Even though none of us have ever flown down a ski jump at 60 mph
 3. But his experience would captivate, not just those of us who watched that video
 - a. But of his athletic colleagues as well
 - b. Who celebrated his iconic fall with a standing ovation
- G. I wonder if he ever got any royalties...
- II. **Holy Week** was like that – only more so
- A. The stakes were much higher
1. So the thrills were immeasurably higher
 2. And the agonies incomprehensibly lower
- B. It all started with Palm Sunday
1. As Jan read a few moments ago, the celebration was exhilarating!
 - a. As Jesus, riding on a donkey, and the disciples descended from the Mount of Olives, the crowd was beside themselves
 - b. They exclaimed their hosannas with abandon, uninhibited by convention or decorum
 2. They “began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice”
 - a. They shouted, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD;
 - b. “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
 3. It was embarrassing
 - a. The Pharisees pleaded with Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!”
 - b. But Jesus replied, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”
 4. What could be more thrilling to the disciples than such profound and wholehearted exultations?
 - a. The thrill of victory
- C. But the descent to **Good Friday** would soon begin
1. And the lows would be unimaginably low
 - a. For the disciples
 - b. And especially for Jesus
 - c. Who would descend into hell itself – in our place, taking upon Himself our just punishment
 2. As Jan also read a few moments ago...
 - a. **Isaiah 53:3–4** (NASB95) — 3 He was despised and forsaken of

men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- b. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

3. The agony of defeat

III. Palm Sunday

- A. But let's not leave Palm Sunday too soon
 - 1. What an amazing day!
- B. Consider the Sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. Jesus tells His disciples, "Go into Bethphage..."
 - a. "And there you'll find a donkey's colt"
 - b. "Nobody's ever ridden on it"
 - c. "Untie it and bring it to me"
- C. Here's where you have to have some sanctified imagination
 - 1. Sometimes the scripture doesn't tell you all of the conversation
 - a. You have to read between the lines
 - b. You have to be careful when you do that – you could get into trouble
 - c. But from time to time, that's what you need to do
 - 2. You know what the disciples were thinking – and maybe even asked Jesus – "How do you know there's a donkey's colt there?"
 - a. Here's where Jesus rolls His eyes
 - b. "How long have you been with Me? I'm Jesus. I know these things"
 - 3. "But what if somebody questions us and tries to keep us from taking the colt?"
 - a. Which is exactly what happened according to Mark's account of this episode
 - b. "Just tell them I need it."
 - 4. So they go into the town
 - a. They find the colt, just as Jesus said they would
 - b. They untie the colt
 - c. And a bunch of guys stops them: "Hey, what do you think you're doing? That's not your donkey. Leave it alone"
 - 5. "Um, our Master needs it?"
 - a. "Oh, why didn't you say so! Be our guest!"
- D. So Jesus knows where the colt is
 - 1. Has authority to take it
 - a. And the mere mention of Jesus' request compels the willing compliance of the bystanders
 - 2. Jesus is sovereign
- E. And think of His Divinity
 - 1. He becomes the object of worship

- a. Only God is the object of worship
 - 2. They spread palm branches and cloaks on the road before Him
 - a. So that not even the donkey would have to touch the corrupt earth beneath his feet
 - 3. And they praise God for all the miracles
 - a. And only God can do miracles
 - b. Even Nicodemus knew that!
- F. And then consider His Majesty
 - 1. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!”
 - a. Whatever their misunderstandings are of Jesus’ kingdom, they at least express their adoration for His majestic reign
 - 2. He is the long-awaited Messiah
 - a. The King of kings
 - 3. And the glory of His majesty far surpasses any glory of winning any athletic contest
 - a. “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

IV. **Hidden in the Praises**

- A. Most episodes of Wide World of Sports contain both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat
 - 1. And that would be the case on Palm Sunday
- B. Because Palm Sunday was not the same for Jesus as it was for the disciples
 - 1. And it was not the same for Jesus as it was for the crowd
- C. So Jesus comes toward Jerusalem
 - 1. And what does He do?
 - a. “Yes! We’re going to make Israel great again!” (That’s what the crowd wanted Him to do)
 - b. His arms stretched out toward the heavens, soaking in the adulation!
 - c. Maybe a Tiger Woods fist pump!
 - d. These people finally get it!
 - e. They finally know who I am!
- D. **Luke 19:41** (NASB95) — 41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it...
 - 1. Vinko Bogataj was no prophet
 - a. He could not have foreseen his catastrophic fall
 - 2. But Jesus looked at Jerusalem
 - a. And He saw the magnificent temple
 - b. The beautiful buildings
 - c. The peaceful homes
 - d. The exultant crowd
 - e. “The joy of the whole earth” as the psalmist had put it
 - 3. But He had two sets of eyes
 - a. He had eyes for the present
 - b. And He had eyes for the prophetic
 - 4. And when He saw the present, He also saw the future

- a. A burned out ruin
 - b. A pile of rubble
 - c. Heaps of bodies, massacred
 - d. His own people, lifeless corpses
 - e. And He weeps
- E. **Luke 19:42** (NASB95) — 42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.”
- 1. Hidden in the praises of the crowds
 - a. The wicked, willful, culpable ignorance of the things of God
 - 2. You see at heart, these people were materialists
 - a. They really were wanting a materialist Messiah
 - b. One who really would make Israel great again
 - c. One who would overthrow the Romans
 - d. One who would make them prosperous
 - e. One who would provide material security
 - 3. But the things that make for peace – true peace – were spiritual
 - a. They always were
 - b. Even the Messianic passages in the OT were about spiritual fidelity
 - c. Messiah was about rescuing Israel from sin, the real oppressor, not from Roman oppression
 - 4. **Jeremiah 31:34** (NASB95) — 34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
 - 5. **Micah 7:18–20** (NASB95) — 18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.
 - 6. **Zechariah 13:1** (NASB95) — 1 “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”
 - 7. **Malachi 3:1–6** (NASB95) — 1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.
 - a. 2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.
 - b. 3 “He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

- c. 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
 - d. 5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts.
 - e. 6 “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”
- F. Even Jesus’ own ministry was about spiritual concerns, not material prosperity
- 1. **Luke 4:4** (NASB95) — 4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’ ”
 - 2. **Luke 4:8** (NASB95) — 8 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ”
 - 3. **Luke 5:32** (NASB95) — 32 “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
 - 4. **Luke 7:47–50** (NASB95) — 47 “For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.” 49 Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?” 50 And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”
 - 5. **Luke 9:23–26** (NASB95) — 23 And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? 26 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”
- G. Jesus comes into Jerusalem
- 1. Sees its beauty
 - a. But also its destiny
 - b. Unless they repent
- H. **Luke 19:43–44** (NASB95) — 43 “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another...”
- 1. You’ll be trapped
 - a. Surrounded
 - b. There’ll be no escape
 - 2. You’ll be leveled
 - a. On the ground
 - b. In a pile of bodies

- c. You, along with your children
- 3. And these beautiful buildings
 - a. They'll be unrecognizable
 - b. Not one stone upon another
 - c. Utterly destroyed
- 4. That's what Jesus saw with His prophetic eyes
 - a. The future as if it were taking place in that very moment
 - b. That's what Jesus saw – on Palm Sunday
 - c. And that's what actually happened
- 5. The great Jewish historian of the time would write the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD:
 - a. "While the sanctuary was burning... neither pity for age nor respect for rank was shown. On the contrary, children and old people, laity and priests alike were massacred."
 - b. "The emperor ordered the entire city and the temple to be razed to the ground, leaving only the loftiest of the towers... and the portion of the wall enclosing the city on the west... All the rest of the wall that surrounded the city was so completely razed to the ground as to leave future visitors to the spot no reason to believe that the city had ever been inhabited."

I. Why?

- 1. Why would all this happen?
 - a. Why did all this happen?
- 2. **Luke 19:44** (NASB95) — 44 "... because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."
- 3. Messiah Jesus had come
 - a. He had come to save His people from their sins
 - b. He had come to redeem His people
- 4. And they completely missed Him
 - a. He was hidden in their praises

V. Conclusion

- A. This is Palm Sunday
 - 1. We exalt the name of Jesus!
 - a. We express our unrestrained adoration of our Savior!
 - 2. We glory in His majesty!
 - a. We thrill in our praises of His sovereign grace
 - 3. And well we should!
- B. But do not miss His visitation
 - 1. He is here
 - a. Not to establish a material kingdom – at least not yet
 - b. But He is here to change your hearts
 - c. He is here to transform and renew your minds
 - d. He is here to forgive your sins
 - e. And He is here to cleanse you from all unrighteousness
 - f. He beckons you to cast yourself on His mercy

- g. He calls you to place your faith, your trust, in Jesus Christ alone
 - 2. Don't miss the time of His visitation
- C. So that there would be nothing hidden in your praises