

21.506h  
LaT971

Substance of two Sermons preached by Pastor Tyler  
on Sunday. May 26. 1974.

Morning Lesson. Luke 19. vv. 28-48.

Then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. Matthew 21.2.

It will be seen by our dear godly friends, although this is not a Text of the ascension immediately of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven, it is a Text of the beginning of His ascension. For the events recorded in these chapters relate to the last week of His life before His crucifixion. An amazing incident is recorded here by three evangelists, - His ascension in kingly triumph and beauty into the city of Jerusalem. We see Him here as King ascending even to the time of His Passion and death on the cross. We see His kingly beauty. There are several things proceeding from the account here which have been with me for a few hours I will name them to you in order and seek grace to concentrate on the two points mainly in one's spirit.

It is therefore most astonishing, if you come to contemplate the divine record, that the Son of God manifesting here His Kingship should select the animals He did to ride on, - an ass, and as we read here, a colt with her; a young ass. You who have knowledge of animals and farming and so on will know more about an ass than I do. Think of the triumphant entrance by the King into the capital city. Some of you have witnessed in the metropolis one of our late kings or our Queen riding in all splendour on a magnificent horse, and Christ was ascending as it were, to His capital city, yet to be the place and scene without the city of His Passion and death. He is riding in triumph. Why? Because it spells out riding in triumph. He conquered when they thought He had fallen. He was setting up His Kingdom and Empire. It spells out triumph, and not defeat. Those who said; "Crucify Him: away with Him." thought it was defeat: it was triumph, or there would have been no Sanctuary, no gospel no gathering together of people here this morning. Triumph is the note.

It is completely polarised from all the Jews and Romans thought, those who crucified Him. He goes with His cross: He is prone; He is nailed to the accursed tree. The Jews said; "This is defeat." It was triumph.

So that is the first point, and I hope it will be the theme running through to the end of these services, and to the end of life. The note is kingship, majesty, glory: victory over man, for man, and in man; over Satan, sin, death and hell; and over poor, wretched, guilty, vile sinners victory, conquest. Does not that expound why the King rode as He did? It was a different method from what He used before. He would hide Himself. "He shall not...cause his voice to be heard in the street." (Isa.42.2) but now He rides as King. Does this help you younger friends and others in trouble? Christ is King: He reigns; He has the victory. How wonderful if it is proved that He has conquered us, and reigns in us and in heaven for us! It spells out safety, security, bliss, and an entrance into glory. It shows this truth; "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom.8.31) So I hope the theme of victory and triumph will assist you, to know that Jesus reigns, - and not only that it may help you, and call forth your praise, worship and adoration to God; but that you this day by the grace of God may give thanks for the victory of Christ, and thank God that He is risen and ascended on high, and He is on the throne. Bless God for this! You have heard me say and I want to reiterate, let us thank God that Christ is delivered out of all His afflictions, and is risen and exalted in heaven. May we with the whole company of heaven join in adoring and praising Him. This is a part we often forget. You say; "If only I can get something." Don't you wish to give something to Him? The term worship has two facets, - to give adoration and praise, and to receive from Him.

He ascended thus in triumph and kingly grandeur, and yet He chose an ass and her colt. I have not seen an ass for a long time. Contemplate why He chose an <sup>ass</sup> and a colt. From St Matthew we learn that the two are to be loosed. This <sup>^</sup> has special significance to me this morning, - the colt with the ass. I suppose you would find yourself in harmony with the concept that an ass is regarded as a lowly animal and a well-known symbol. The Lord did not choose a fine horse; the most beautiful horse you could imagine, but a colt with the ass.

The concern of the congregation will be to find the ass and the colt.

My concern will be to find the ass in the congregation and the colt with her. (I say it in all holy reverence.) This is surely the quest of the sermon and your spiritual exercise, to find the ass and the colt that Jesus rode on. So why do you think He made this wise choice of heavenly wisdom? Undoubtedly to set forth His meekness and lowliness. How meek and lowly Christ was! and this is the spirit of Christ. How meek and lowly is the dear Lamb of God! So He would ride on an ass and colt,- no doubt they were interchanged. I think this most surely brings out the meaning of the facts in the narrative. We have two things already: kingliness, grandeur, riding as King, showing He is King, and all He accomplished is victory and triumph. This will mean much to you in your life. You will want to know He reigns, that He has the victory over men; over your live souls, hearts, affections, to cast out Satan, the vile usurper. So this is as a sequence from Thursday. (Lesson. Luke 11. vv.1-28)

Number three. When He entered into the city He exercised His kingly authority. He went, as you know so well, into the temple of God. You think of it in several ways; as the House of God, the house of prayer, literally considered. It is also your own soul. He went to the temple of God. No doubt you will concentrate on your own heart,- and He went to the temple of God. For surely the people wish their hearts to be the temple of God? You want your heart to be a calm, delightful house of prayer. (381) your heart, your heart; not just a building of brick or stone, but the temple of your body, your heart God's temple. Is it? How this raises tremendous issues and questions to be answered. Is my heart a house of prayer? God's House? Is it a dwelling place for Him? Does He dwell in my house?

Another aspect of this could be one's home, because if you have your nightly and morning devotions, the husband and father reading and praying with the family, and private devotions in your bedchamber, I suppose you could well say your home is a house of prayer. As you rise in the morning you are on your knees by your bed before you dress: last thing at night you are on your knees. You come to the breakfast table and the head of the house reads the Scriptures and the children join in, and the head of the house prays. It is a house of prayer, O the richness of it! This has left an indelible mark on my spirit from my infancy and early childhood,

especially in London in Mr Bradbury's home. This is one of the sweetest memories to me, to have a meal in Manor Park and hear him ask the Lord's blessing on the meal. There is no mistake about it, when the Lord is honoured in a house it is a house of prayer. You can go from room to room and feel, O the peace of this house! Liberty seems to permeate your spirit. So I could speak to you this morning who have fulfilled your family devotions before you came to the House of prayer. You were on your knees for some minutes, and the head of the house read the Scriptures and prayed. This is a good start to the day for you.

Take the three interpretations which are correct. Christ entered the temple, my heart, my home, the building. What was His action? He cleansed the temple, and it needs cleansing. My friends, your heart does. It may be some cleansing is needful in the home life, and constantly the Lord sees fit to cleanse the temple. Some of you are able to follow with great concern, interest and appreciation. You think of your own house. So Christ entering the metropolis, we read of Him that He went to the temple of God. My friends, surely this is a matter of priority to you. You want your heart to be the temple of God. It is a sad, sad place if it is not. What did He do? He cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple. It was an old aspersion for this place years ago by the world. They said the farmers did a lot of buying and selling on the Lord's Day in the interval. This was a common saying in the parish. I do not know if it was true: most of the men were farmers. The point is this: it may not actually be true, and I hope it is not now, but it is a thing in the heart. How many times have you worked out business problems in the House of God and have not known a word that came from the pulpit? You are decorating the home, and doing a thousand and one things instead of concentrating on the things of God. Listen; the preacher is guilty, and if you know your own heart you are. I do not believe there is a person in the Chapel, if they are honest, but will say "Guilty." You have found your mind wandering off, and doing things of the week, attractive things, or trying to solve problems. Is that true? Be honest. He cast out all that sold and bought in the temple. Of course, there is something that is vastly different. If you have providential matters that deeply concern you and you are committing them into the hand of the Lord and listening

for direction and help. This is commendable: this is where discernment lies.

"And cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers." Of course, this is according to the Bible, the chief vice of the human race, - the love of money! We are told by God that it is the root of all evil. When you think of all the crime, treachery, deception, and the root of it all is the love of money. It is surely sad to live for money. It is obvious that God has given ability to some in business acumen. How sad if one only lives for money, and can never have enough! So how many tables are set up? Tomorrow there will be a few set up in the School room for tea: I wonder how many are set up in the temple of God in our hearts for moneychangers? We may be like dear Hilda Tompsett. She seemed to be in normal health, and she woke in the early hours and her head was dreadful. It was only a matter of hours. It could be me and you, and I often wonder these days. Are you ready? It is sad if you are just living for this world. You may say to me; "I have got responsibilities; I must apply myself." Do it by prayer. Try to do it to the glory of God and by His help. There is nothing else in life worth anything. You have a picture of a selfish child. Others come to play and it keeps gathering everything in its arms and will not share anything. We do not want to live like that. It is a dreadful way to live; - never mind about anyone so long as I have got it.

"and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves." Doves for sacrifice, and these may well be a symbol of a false peace and tranquility.

"Wrapped up in self-conceit and pride,  
'I shall get safe at last,' I cried." (336)

"and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." This was one of the acts of Christ in His last week. I am sure prayer will go up from many a heart in the Sanctuary that the Lord will come and cleanse your hearts; that He will look on you, and it will be a great mercy if we are so under the influence of the Holy Spirit that this is our exercise

"Search me, O God, exercise Thy omniscience in my heart. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psa. 139. 23-24) That is the objective: and coupled with this from the Psalms, what is written in the Letters to the seven Churches in Asia. At various seasons you who have children at school will receive a report. It will cover the various subjects in the curriculum, conduct, attendance, and so on. There will be a note written by the master or mistress, and a covering note by the Head master. Do you want to receive your report from God? So He writes as He did in the seven letters, and sends a report. What He does is to commend what is commendable; to reprove what is reprobable. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." (Rev. 2. 4) Think of those reports when the children bring them home, and say; "Lord, send me my report. Let me know how God sees me over the past term. Send me my report, and cleanse the temple of God. Amen.

Afternoon Lesson. Mark. 11.

Then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. Matthew 21. 2-3.