

He was Right there – Yet they all Missed Him

Luke 19:37-44

## Introduction

Today is the day we recognize as Palm Sunday ... I'm excited with the timing of this day as it fits so well into our awakening journey ... For decades I have read and preached on this event – but I assure you – never in the manner I will today ... But before we jump into this very familiar story.

I need to refresh your memory – of a critical truth we established last week ... The Holy Spirit will interrupt the normal flow of your life ... He will step into your routine – disrupt your patterns – for the expressed purpose of gaining your attention ... These collisions are not random – they are intentional – to disrupt your auto-pilot mode.

So – this is the established truth ... Collisions will happen and are intentional ... Disruptions are part of the awakening / formation / transformation process ... This is how the Kingdom functions in your life ... The collision is designed to create internal tension ... And what you do with that tension will either cause you to capture the moment – or completely miss it ... Last week I shared with you – that if you seek to relieve the tension by “trying to fix” the disruption – you will be in danger of missing the whole point the Spirit is trying to reveal.

Palm Sunday is a major collision event recorded in scripture ... Before we discover the awakening principle from this event ... Let's look at this story which is found in Luke 19

### **Luke 19:37-44 New Living Translation**

When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen ... 38 “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! ... Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” ... 39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!” ... 40 He replied, “If

they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!” ... 41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep ... 42 “How I wish today - - that you of all people - - would understand the way to peace ... But now it is too late, - - and peace is hidden from your eyes ... 43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side ... 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you ... Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you”

Here we have a collision event that impacts so many people – on so many levels ... I will not attempt to pull this all apart – because to do it justice would take months ... Today – I want us to particularly focus on verse 42 ... Here – Jesus basically said – I wish you would understand the way of peace – but it is too late – it is hidden from your eyes.

So – what was Jesus alluding to? ... Remember – the natural man can not understand the things of God – because they are spiritually discerned ... So – focus inwardly – to hear and discern what the Spirit is communicating to His ekklesia today.

## **Expectations will Hide Kingdom Truth from Your Eyes**

### **Luke 19:42 – New Living Translation**

I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace ... But now it is too late – and peace is hidden from your eyes

Divine disruptions are designed to create an internal tension – which if handled correctly – will awaken you to Kingdom truth ... There was a crystal clear – Kingdom event – happening right before their eyes ... Yet Jesus said – It’s too late – you missed it ... What caused them to miss this event which we call Palm Sunday – the start of Holy week? ... **Expectations**

See – they all had put their spin on what was happening in the moment ... They did the exact thing we talked about last week ... They looked at a natural event and discerned it through

natural eyes – but they went a little deeper ... They included in that discernment their own – personal expectations.

They had already decided what kind of King – Jesus was supposed to be ... They had already decided how God was supposed to move ... So, when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem ... They did not perceive the moment for what it was ... They perceived it through the filter of what they desired and expected.

This is why Palm Sunday is such a powerful collision event ... The Spirit was moving ... The prophetic was unfolding ... The King Himself was present ... The people were shouting ... The atmosphere was charged ... But – expectations were distorting the true Kingdom message ... They were having a real spiritual moment – but they were misreading it – because of how they thought – it should play out.

See – the people wanted a political deliverer – someone to overthrow Rome – someone to restore power in the natural realm ... They wanted a Messiah that fit their religious and cultural framework ... One who would confirm what they already believed ... They wanted a King who would meet their personal hopes and desires. ... And because they were carrying all those expectations into the moment – the Prince of Peace was hidden from their eyes.

This is the danger of expectation ... Let me remind you of the process again ... The collision occurs (remember the collision is neutral in the spirit – neither good or bad) ... This disruption creates an internal tension ... We then desire to fix the disruption because we trained ourself that when the problem is fix – the internal tension is relieved ... Now – what if the collision is an external event that you can't fix nor change – like this event? ... Every collision will create an internal tension – as we observe – the crowd was internally charged and shouting.

Now catch this ... When you are internally charged up ... When the internal tension is at a fevered pitch ... In order to help relieve or regulate this internal pressure – because you can't fix or change the external event ... An internal – fleshly mechanism will engage – expectations will

kick in ... First – to make intellectual sense of the event – as our brain is uncomfortable with uncertainty ... And secondly – to help regulate the internal emotional tension – the event is creating ... Attaching expectations to the event solves both physical issues.

If you allow this fleshly mechanism to engage – and expectations resolves the mental and emotional tension ... You will completely miss the true spiritual meaning and intent of the collision ... Why? ... Because you didn't focus upon – nor sit quietly – in the mental and emotional tension ... You automatically relieved it and made it manageable ... Your flesh kicked in – and when that happens – it shuts down the spirit ... If you don't grasp anything else from this message – please grasp that!

So, when Jesus said peace was hidden from their eyes ... He was exposing a profound truth ... The peace was there – but their expectation would not let them see it ... The King was there – but their expectation would allow them to recognize Him ... The moment was a prophetic – Kingdom event – but their expectation redefining it – into something more comfortable – more familiar – and more agreeable with their flesh.

This is why collisions are so important in our lives ... They expose what we are carrying in our inner man – at that moment ... They reveal the internal mindset and framework that is already shaping our interpretation and understanding ... So now we have to go one step deeper ... Because if expectation can hide peace from our eyes ... then we must understand what expectation actually does when the collision creates tension within you.

## **When Expectation Is Exposed – Don't Resolve It – Remain in It**

### **Luke 19:41 – New Living Translation**

But as He came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead - - He began to weep

So – let's be honest – we all deal with this issue of expectations ... And this event is a great reminder of human nature ... But now the question becomes ... What do we do – when it is

exposed within us? ... What do you do when we realize – I don't just have expectations ... I function through them – and I am constantly living by them? ... Let me give you an example ... When you get upset at a situation or a person – you had an expectation that things would have played out differently than they did.

Now - - Let's remember our foundational awakening principle ... When the internal tension rises – don't try to fix it ... Don't seek to relieve the tension through expectations ... Be still – psalms 46:10 – and stay in the tension of the moment ... You are standing in the doorway of divine revelation ... If you allow expectations to relieve the tension – you will miss what is being revealed ... Or as Jesus said – it will be hidden from your eyes ... Your spiritual eyes are far more important for seeing truth than these natural eyes.

Did you notice Jesus was weeping in the moment? ... Not because nothing was happening – but something was happening ... And they didn't stay in the moment long enough to truly see ... They allowed their expectations to distort their spiritual perspective ... This distortion – these expectations – caused them to settle the moment in their mind and heart ... And let me skip ahead a few days ... Here they are yelling Hosanna – and a few days later they are yelling Crucify Him.

May I be blunt here? ... Not as a condemning comment but an admonishing one ... This is the reason why people get mad with God ... In the tension of the moment – expectations kicked in to relieve the internal pressure ... And when the expectations didn't come to pass – your mind said – Crucify Him ... People walk away because God didn't meet their expectations in the moment

### **Takeaway**

So let me leave you with this ... The next time your normal is disrupted ... Don't rush to settle it ... Don't immediately reach for an explanation – nor tie an expectation to the event ... Don't seek to force that moment back into what feels familiar and manageable ... Remember – this is

your natural programming to do so ... The flesh hates tension and disruption and will seek to resolve it as soon as possible.

Instead ... Pause ... Be still ... Force yourself to remain in the tension ... Then focus internally and ask yourself - - What this tension trying to reveal?

We have now realized – the collision is not the problem – it is the attention grabber – so give it your attention ... But here is the rub – how long will you remain in the tension of the moment? ... How long will you wait to hear or see the truth the Spirit is seeking to awaken you too?

What I want us to awaken to through this event we call the triumphal entry into Jerusalem – is what was clearly exposed ... We all live in a world of expectations ... We all struggle with the issue of expectations ... And we clearly discovered – expectations caused these people – not only to miss the spirit truth of Who Jesus was – the Prince of Peace ... But also, they missed the entire meaning of the event and the events of the week that followed ... Don't be one of them