

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 5th April 2020

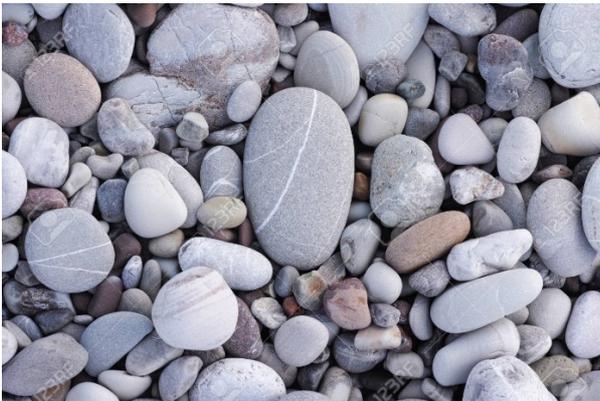
Sermon Title: Even the stones will cry out

Bible Passage: Luke 19:20-44

Introduction

Take time to read the passage again, perhaps try at a different Bible translation e.g. The Message or The Passion Translation and reflect on the questions below:

- Have you ever been praised for something? Can you remember the difference it made to you?
- What difference does praising someone make?
- Who do we praise? How do we use our words to praise them?
- Verse 40 “But if they keep quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise! When did you last offer praise to God?”
- What form did this praise take (singing; music, dance, prayer, praise party etc.)?
- Was there anything interesting or that stood out new to you in this Palm Sunday reading?
- In what way did it captivate your attention and how did Jesus speak to you through this?
- What will you take away from the preach that will impact how you connect with others this week?



Re-capping the Preach:

- God’s personal visit - Jesus heads to Jerusalem, it’s the Passover festival. It’s Gods’ time to be seen!
- Jesus fulfills the ancient prophecies Zechariah 9:9; 2 Kings 9:13
- The Disciples have a light bulb moment and actually recognize that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah worthy of praise. Praise so deeply and overwhelming overflowing from within them. It can’t be contained – a bit like a can of Coke shook up and opened - its effervescent!
- The Pharisees told Jesus: “Teacher get your disciples under control.” The Pharisees do not recognize Jesus as Messiah and King, only a threat to their power.
- The disciples will not remain silent, this is an occasion to celebrate and be jubilant its time for God’s plan of salvation to be delivered through Jesus.

- We are all given gifts and talents to share & invest in praising Jesus and living a life of praise, no matter what life's circumstances are.

Questions for reflection

- Christians praise Jesus because he suffered and died and rose again to give us a transformed life. Why did the crowds praise Jesus in Luke's reading?
- What if you don't feel like praising? – some days life is so hard that praise is the last thing we want to do. Think of praise as saying back to God who he is (a declaration) e.g. I praise you for your faithfulness; You are my rock and my salvation.
- There was a great joy among the disciples and the crowds. In what way is the joy of the Lord your strength?
- How have you welcomed God's personal visit in your life this week? How will you continue to recognize His Presence in your life and that of your family?
- In what ways do you praise God and others?

Final thoughts

- Praise him joyfully always, through the good; the not so good and the downright awful – he longs to hear your praise and especially your sacrifice of praise.
- Try praising God however you want and see the difference it makes to you – your perspective will be lifted and His countenance will shine upon and through you.

Prayer pointers:

Mediate on Psalm 100; Psalm 147

Pray a wave and revival of praise erupts in your home; street; town; county; country and worldwide.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>

Things to do:

- Science experiment - make a tuneful noise, dip your finger in water then rub the rim of a glass and hear its sound. Try this on different glasses. Glass is a form of stone
- Get your worship on! Have a Praise Party – create a praise playlist; get some nibbles and joyfully celebrate who God is on your own or with others!
- Just for fun play a game of "Pin the tail on the donkey"
- Decorate a stone/large pebble with a rainbow and then on your daily walk/bike ride/daily outdoor time take it and leave it somewhere in your community as a gift for someone else to pick up.



- Create a jar of Praise, add one daily praise into a decorated jar and share with others when it's a tough day.