

Overcomer – Jesus Our Overcomer

March 20, 2016 - Pastor Randy Eliason

Matt 21: 1-11

"As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. 2 "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them." 4 This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.'" 6 The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. 8 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!" 10 The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked. 11 And the crowds replied, "It's Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

We have just read a description of what has come to be called Jesus triumphal entry; his ride into Jerusalem on the Sunday that began his final week leading to His death & resurrection. It is significant in that it is Jesus first public act whereby He announces himself as Messiah. Up until Jesus final week he only revealed his messianic identity selectively and somewhat secretly. He resisted attempts by the masses to proclaim him as the Messiah; the promised coming King.

Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a colt was an intentional symbolic act declaring himself to be the promised Messiah (Matt. 21:4). The crowds treated Jesus as royalty and praised Him as the coming Messiah and King (Luke 19:36-38) Jesus accepted their praise as the "Son of David". (i.e. Messiah)

But what does that mean to say that Jesus is Messiah? I wonder how many people in church understand the term "Jesus Christ".

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Some people think that Christ was Jesus last name, as if he was the son of Joseph and Mary Christ. But “Christ” is derived from the Greek term for “anointed one” and “Messiah” is derived from Jewish term for “anointed one”. Jesus is God’s anointed one.

We can only understand Jesus properly when we understand him as the fulfillment of the OT story. Jesus entrance into human history is the fulfillment of the OT promise. The promise that God would send his messiah to save His people. In the OT there were many people who were anointed of the Lord, but for the most part God’s anointed ones fall into three basic classes, filling what we can call the three anointed offices; the office of prophet, priest and king. God had ordained the ministries of prophet, priest, and King in order to provide for the needs of God’s people until His ultimate anointed one would come. In the OT there is an expectation of a special anointed one who is yet to come, one referred to by the Jewish people as THE MESSIAH. The OT expectation is that this great Messiah will simultaneously fulfill the role of P,P, & King. Today we will see how Jesus does just that; fulfills the role of the prophet, priest, and king perfectly and ultimately. By fulfilling the mission of these three offices He becomes mankind’s perfect savior/Lord.

We need a Savior because we have problems/issues. They are symptomatic of our one great problem. We are alienated from God due to our sin nature. This alienation and corruption leaves us in need of someone to take us from alienation to reconciliation. In order to move from alienation and separation to reconciliation three things are necessary. *Truth must be revealed, guilt must be dealt with, and sin must be conquered.* Jesus Christ came to reveal, redeem, and reign so we could be reconciled.

First, he came to reveal because our sin has left us spiritually blind and ignorant. We don’t know the one true God. Jesus described the spiritual condition of his day as the blind leading the blind. Romans 1 tells us man has suppressed the truth, his thoughts about God having become futile and foolish. *Second, he came to redeem* because our sin has left us guilty. Romans 1-3 establishes the fact of mans universal

Overcomer – Jesus Our Overcomer

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guilt, leaving us deserving of God's condemnation. *Third, as King he comes to reign.* To conquer death and sin and take dominion and bring everything that is out of alignment, back into alignment with His will. These needs were partially and temporarily provided for God's people via the OT prophets, priests, and Kings, BUT because they were all imperfect, afflicted with a corrupt sin nature, they were never adequate to do the job.

Messiah, the Prophet

We need a prophet to reveal truth to us: The truth about who God is, who we are, and what God has done to make us who he created us to be.

In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses prophesied saying, "the Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him". In John 4, the woman at the well questioned whether Jesus was THE messiah. The Samaritans specifically viewed the Messiah as a prophet like Moses. After Jesus fed the five thousand, the people exclaimed that He must be, "the prophet who is to come." In Peter's second sermon he states that Jesus is the one that Moses spoke about. He is the prophet who is to come. Jesus is the great prophet in that he: Is the one who revealed God. John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. This is why John refers to Him as "the word". This is why Isaiah revealed him as the "Wonderful Counselor". This is why Jesus could say, "you have heard it said in the law...BUT I say to you..." Jesus is the way, the TRUTH... But Jesus was not just a final great prophet

He was the one to whom all prophecy was pointing. (see Luke 18:34) In Luke 24:27, after Jesus rose from the dead, we read "²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Messiah, the Priest

Overcomer – Jesus Our Overcomer

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Second class of anointed ones - priests. Not only does the OT picture the messiah fulfilling the prophetic role, but he also is pictured as fulfilling the role of the high priest..

Psalm 110:4, understood by the Jews as Messianic says, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'you are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek'. Zechariah tells us that the coming Redeemer "will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne" (Zechariah 6:12,13)

The role of the OT priest was mainly to act as representative - of man before God and of God before man; to act as a mediator between the people and their God. This begs the question why a mediator? The reason is that due to his sin, man could not enjoy God's presence fully. This mediation involved the presenting of a blood sacrifice before God.

The whole OT religious system centered around the sacrificial system. Praise and preaching, but the sacrifice was prominent. The sacrificial system was elaborate, involving daily, weekly, monthly and annual sacrifices. The two most important sacrifices during the year were Passover and the Day of Atonement: the most important referred to as "The Day". On the DOA the high priest would take extraordinary measures to safeguard against becoming ceremonially unclean. On that day he first offered a bull for the sins of the priest and himself – took the blood into the MHP as an offering before God's presence. Next he took two male goats for a sin offering for the whole community. One was killed and the blood taken into the MHP. He laid his hands on the live goat, confessed the sins of the people symbolizing a transfer of guilt. The goat was then driven away into the wilderness symbolizing the removing of the sin from them.

At the heart of OT worship is the blood sacrifice. At the heart of the sacrifice was the notion of substitution: One dies in the place of another. What lies behind the idea of substitution is the notion of judgment/penalty. The sacrificed animal was absorbing the penalty that was due God's people. The role of the High Priest was crucial: ONLY he could offer the sacrifice for the people. ONLY he could enter beyond the veil, and he could ONLY enter with the blood. Three things

Overcomer – Jesus Our Overcomer

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communicated: god desires to dwell among his people. There is a separation due to sin. The penalty of sin is death. Foreshadow What Jesus would do and what only Jesus could do, because by being both God and man, Jesus was uniquely qualified to represent both God and man.

Heb. 7:26-27: Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

The whole sacrificial system of the OT, and especially the role of the High Priest, was designed to point forward to the work Jesus Christ would accomplish. The OT sacrificial system demonstrated that mans' sin deserves to be punished by death, but God has made provision for a substitute to take our place. The High Priest was to cleanse himself to symbolize freedom from sin and the animal sacrificed was to be without physical defect to also symbolize the absence of sin. Jesus sacrifice on the cross was the reality of which the High Priest's sacrifice was merely a symbol! While I can't explain the incarnation, to reject it would require me to explain away the whole OT sacrificial system as some crazy senseless product of a human's imagination. I could make the excuse that the divine-human nature of Christ is too difficult to explain and so must be rejected. But if I reject it as untrue, I am left with a greater problem; the problem of having too much to explain away. If I don't accept the truth about Jesus I am left having to try and explain away his fulfillment of Passover, DOA, and prophecies like Isaiah 53. I CAN'T! The peculiar of the OT becomes profound in light of Jesus!

Messiah, the King

The most common expectation of the coming messiah was that he would reign forever as a descendant of King David. The Jews were waiting for someone to save them from their earthly enemies, but Jesus came to save them from their real enemies; the enemies of sin, Satan, and death. The enemies that make them enemies of their God. How common! We want to be free from the sin of others, but we are less concerned with our own sin.

Overcomer – Jesus Our Overcomer

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Jesus acknowledged to Pilate that he was King, but he said, "My kingdom is not of this world. Jesus will return to exercise an earthly reign, but his main mission was not to conquer the nations that were oppressing God's people, but to conquer the sin which oppressed all people; The sin that made people oppressors in the first place.

Jesus has already conquered Satan, sin, and death in the life of those who become his children by faith. He has disarmed them of their power, and is coming again to put an end to their very presence.

SO WHAT? What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill prophet, priest, and King?

It means that we can be reconciled to our creator. It means that we are no longer separated from him by three walls; the wall of ignorance, the wall of guilt, and the wall of captivity to evil.

1. *The Prophet breaks down the wall of ignorance.* We no longer have to live in ignorance of who God is, who we are, and what God's will is for us. It means we can know him; we can understand His nature, character and will and we can experience His presence. We don't have to live in ignorance anymore.

2. *The Priest breaks down the wall of guilt.* When we are guilty of having wronged someone, that guilt separates us. Forgiveness brings reconciliation. An offense creates tension between the offender and offended. Until forgiveness is offered and received there is distance. My wife and I have hurt one another –don't divorce but there is distance. forgiveness – reconciliation closes the gap.

Solution

1. pretend your guilt doesn't exist.
2. Try to overcome guilt by being perfect..
3. Receive forgiveness from Christ We don't have to live behind a wall of guilt anymore!

3. *The King breaks down the wall of captivity to sin.* It is not just the guilt of sin the separates us from God. It is also the power of sin. Our compulsion to follow after

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our lust, greed, and pride, pulls us away from loving obedience to God's will. We need Jesus to not only reveal his will to us. We also need the power of His Spirit to free us from our captivity to sin so we can serve God. No matter what has held you captive, whether fear, pride, lust, greed, envy, bitterness, jealousy, depression or addiction, Jesus has come so that you could be free. According to Romans 6 sin isn't our master anymore. Sin is no longer the Lord we serve, Jesus is!!

When the religious leaders scolded Jesus for accepting praise as Messiah he said, If they don't the rocks will cry out. In the temple the children were praising him as Messiah and the religious leaders objected. Jesus told them, "your own scriptures say that God has ordained praise for himself from babies."

The Key Point:

When you recognize who Jesus is you just can't. keep silent!

If he has overcome your wall of ignorance, you have to praise him and proclaim him!

If He has overcome your wall of guilt, you have to praise him!

If he has overcome the sin which walled you in and made you its captive, you have to praise him.