

<http://youtu.be/jdYs2uFj9M8>
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=W5mbldTkruM&feature=share

101 – That the scripture may be fulfilled

Today has been oddly restless and agitated – remember those words, *restless* and *agitated* as we go through our study tonight. It's very unusual for the day when we join together to Light Up the Scriptures. Normally, Tuesday is very focused. I kept seeking the Lord, "How am I to prepare for tonight?" He directed me to mow the grass, which I had done only three days ago; Hmmm...three days. A brother called who was troubled and the Lord directed me not only to take the call, but invest over an hour to identify something that has been at the root of his trouble, I believe, nearly his whole life; so Praise the Lord. After Barbara came home from being with her Granddaughter, we processed through some things, and I fell asleep for nearly an hour. Since I returned to my office, preparing for tonight as best I can, I have been unable to get comfortable in my chair. I spend untold hours in my office chair, working on whatever project the Lord has put in front of me, and it is usually easy to sit here for those hours. Not today. Earlier, when I was mowing, I heard the Father's voice saying, "My Son was not prepared for what He was to do either. There IS no preparation for such a thing. It is a matter of obedience and honor, or disobedience and dishonor."

All that by way of sharing with you what to me is a fresh insight into the journey the Lord Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed One, took around this time, 2000 years ago.

In a few days, much of the world will celebrate two of the biggest days in Christian tradition: Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. One is a memorial service of sorts, remembering the crucifixion of the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel, by the demands of His own people.

Last Sunday was Palm Sunday, on the Christian calendar, celebrating Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a young donkey that had never been ridden before, fulfilling, once more, the scriptures written hundreds of years earlier:

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the **foal of a donkey**.

What blows my mind every time I think about it is that Jesus knew *exactly* what he was doing and why. He knew it when he met John who was baptizing in the Jordan:

Matthew 3:15

Jesus said to him, "by your leave, at present, for thus it is becoming for us to fulfill all righteousness."

He knew it when he went into Jerusalem...deliberately...riding on a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9.

Before He even went into Jerusalem, on what we call Palm Sunday, Jesus had told the disciples what was going to happen:

Matthew 20:

17 Now Jesus, being about to go up into Jerusalem, took aside the twelve disciples privately. And on the road He said to them:

Realize, now, He is already on the road to Jerusalem. Maybe he found a shady spot and gathered the guys around to give them a heads-up. Now, He'd already let them know before this what He faced, but now it was imminent and apparently He wanted them to know what they were about to witness.

Matthew 20:

18 "Lo! we are going up into Jerusalem, and the Son of Mankind will be given up to the chief priests and scribes, and they will be condemning Him to death.

19 And they will be giving Him up to the nations, to scoff at and scourge and crucify. And the third day He will be roused."

This is going to be truly appalling, so buckle up, guys!

Now look at what happens next. The temerity of this is incredible, especially given what Jesus had just said:

Matthew 20:

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, worshiping and requesting something from Him.

21 Now He said to her, "What are you wanting?" She is saying to Him, "Say that these, my two sons, should be seated, one at Thy right and one at Thy left, in Thy kingdom."

22 Now answering, Jesus said, "You are not aware what you are requesting. Are you able to be drinking the cup which I am about to be drinking?" They are saying to Him, "We are able."

23 He is saying to them, "My cup, indeed, you shall be drinking. Yet to be seated at My right and at My left is not Mine to give, but is for whom it has been made ready by My Father."

Two things here: 1 – there is a place prepared for someone at Jesus' right and left hand in His Kingdom – there will be ranking. 2 – Who were the sons of Zebedee?

Matthew 1:14-20, 29

14 Now, after the giving up of John, Jesus came into Galilee, heralding the evangel of the kingdom of God...

16 And passing by, beside the sea of Galilee, He perceived Simon, and Andrew, the brother of Simon, purse netting with a purse net in the sea, for they were fishers.

17 And Jesus said to them, "Hither! After Me, and I will make you become fishers of men!"

18 And immediately, leaving their nets, they follow Him.

19 And advancing slightly, He perceived **James of Zebedee and John**, his brother, who also are in the ship, adjusting the nets.

20 And straightway He calls them. And, leaving their father Zebedee in the ship with the hirelings, they came away after Him...

29 And straightway, coming out of the synagogue, they came into the home of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

It is astonishing to me that John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved," by his own account, came with his mother, immediately after Jesus had just declared what He was about to face in Jerusalem, asking for one of the two most special places in the kingdom. It is perhaps more amazing that Jesus didn't say, "Are you kidding me? Did you hear anything I just said to you? Are you so callous? Do you care nothing for the suffering I'm about to endure?" No, He spoke to them graciously. At no time did Jesus play for anyone's sympathy. He was solely about the Father's business. Jesus honored His Father throughout His life.

Matthew 20:

24 And, hearing of it, the ten resent as to the two brothers.

25 Now Jesus, calling them to Him, said, "You are aware that the chiefs of the nations are lording it over them, and the great are coercing them.

26 Not thus is it to be among you. But whosoever may be wanting to become great among you, let him be your servant,

27 and whoever may be wanting to be foremost among you, let him be your slave,

28 even as the Son of Mankind came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give His soul a ransom for many."

Continue into Jerusalem now, after, Jesus passed through Bethany, where he raised Lazarus. Here is John's account of the celebration just observed in churches throughout the world last Sunday:

John 12:

12 On the morrow the vast throng, who are coming for the festival, hearing that Jesus is coming into Jerusalem,

13 got fronds of palms and came out to meet Him. And they clamored, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord!" and "The King of Israel!"

14 Now Jesus, finding a little ass, is seated on it, according as it is written,

15 Do not fear, daughter of Zion! Lo! your King is coming, sitting on an ass's colt.

16 Now these things are not known to His disciples at first, but when Jesus is glorified, then they are reminded that these things were written of Him and these things they do to Him.

17 The throng, then, which is with Him when He summons Lazarus out of the tomb, and rouses him from among the dead, was testifying.

18 Therefore, also, the vast throng meets Him, for they hear that He has done this sign.

19 The Pharisees, then, say to themselves, "You are beholding that you are benefiting nothing. Lo! the world came away after him!"

Let me just break here a minute: I have no idea what this scripture means, in which the Pharisees are talking to themselves – I presume that means *among* themselves. I found no help in the Concordant commentary, and I decided not to get hung up with trying to find some great explanation. If there is one, I have no doubt the Lord will turn my attention to it again sometime.

John 12:

20 Now there were some Greeks from among those going up that they should be worshipping in the festival.

21 These, then, came to Philip who is from Bethsaida of Galilee, and they asked him, saying, "Lord, we want to become acquainted with Jesus."

22 Philip is coming and telling Andrew, and again Andrew and Philip are coming and telling Jesus.

23 Yet Jesus is answering them, saying, "Come has the hour that the Son of Mankind should be glorified.

24 "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, If a kernel of grain, falling into the earth, should not be dying, it is remaining alone, yet if it should be dying, it is bringing forth much fruit.

25 He who is fond of his soul is destroying it, and he who is hating his soul in this world, shall be guarding it for life eonian.

26 "If anyone should be serving Me, let him be following Me, and where I am, there My servant also shall be. And if anyone should be serving Me, the Father shall be honoring him.

27 **Now is My soul disturbed.**

“disturbed” - agitated, trouble (a thing, by the movement of its parts to and fro) to cause one inward commotion, take away his calmness of mind, disturb his equanimity;

to disquiet, make **restless** – remember the two words I used when I began, to describe how I've felt all day today? Restless and agitated, unable to get comfortable.

John 12:

And what may I be saying? 'Father, save Me out of this hour'?

28 But therefore came I into this hour. Father, glorify Thy name! "A voice, then, came out of heaven, "I glorify it also, and shall be glorifying it again!"

I have come to believe that the closer we identify with Christ's *humanity* – especially His undeserved suffering to death – the closer we may come to recognizing our own *divinity*, as offspring of God ourselves.

I would like to share a “letter” from the Lord that I received in 1996 (in fact, it was about this time of year 16 years ago). I received this in response to my own complaining, railing, whining and crying out to God out of my own petty misery.

“My experience as the only evidence on God’s side of how great His purpose is, how important *you* are to its fulfillment, how precious you are, and how worth the price I paid for you.

“I invite you to imagine what it must have been like for me, before the beginning of all things: immortal, sitting next to my Father – the God of the universe – having a hand in creating everything, and in on the whole plan from start to finish. I agreed to become completely human and die willingly, as a sacrifice for all sins committed by everyone for all time. Mankind would then have an opportunity to believe and trust God, get over the sentence of death and make friends with the One Who imposed it!

“I agreed to lay down my life, **knowing** that there would come a point during my human experience when I would NOT be in contact with my Father for the first time ever. I knew that at the end of my human life I would have only my faith in my Father to hold on to. When it *looked* like my mission had failed, and even God was silent toward me, I would have to believe His word as you do now, in the face of evidence that could discourage your trust. I agreed, knowing that it would hurt (because humans feel hurt) and that it would result in my death. My only remaining faith would be that the Father would not leave me dead but would raise me up and restore my glory.

“I agreed to be crucified to accomplish two things: first, to be the sacrifice that saves all from the sin that separated mankind from God. As far as the Father is concerned, that separation no longer exists. All debts are settled, all sins are forgiven, and offenses are no longer reckoned. When I died, God “conciliated” the world to Himself — He brought the whole world into a state of harmony with Himself (although most of the world still doesn’t know it)!

“God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them.” (2 Corinthians 5:19)

“The second accomplishment was establishing God’s credibility, vindicating His character and validating His purpose. I could lay down my life, but only God could save my soul, raise me from the grave and make me live again. My resurrection was the Father’s open display of His power and grace — His favor. God fulfilled His promise through me, and in that same grace, through my faith in Him and yours in me, you are also saved!

“It is this salvation from death into life with which God now approaches you — and all who choose to believe in me and share my faith. It is the offering He carries. Your acceptance of it — your *conciliation* to the Father — ends your estrangement from Him, brings you into harmony with Him and makes my sacrifice truly significant.

“Today, my role is that of mediator between you and God.

“For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man, Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

“As mediator, I come to you as you cry out to God, to help you make peace and to be friends with Him. I *assure* you that the Father is already at peace with you, as He is with all mankind, by virtue of my sacrifice. It remains only for you to accept His open hand of friendship and come to peace with *Him*.

“I waiting for all to turn their hearts and minds toward me, and I’m glad you *did*. I hold out to you my scarred hands and feet and I invite you to walk with me through *my* journey. You will see it all, standing beside me, as a silent

witness. You think *you* had it tough, but I am offering you a perspective that will transform any misery into victory!

“The insight you will gain will surely change the view of your own journey, and you will know that I am *inside* you. You invited me there. Everything you experience, I do too. It will help you to know — to see and feel for yourself — what I went through. Your life will look different from then on.

“You will recall our journey together often and it will sustained you through the years.

Remember, I am with you always.

Jesus Christ

That letter came after the Lord took me with Him through His ordeal from the Garden of Gethemane, through His abuse at the hands of the Jews; then the Romans; through His crucifixion and, thank You Father, to His resurrection!

Luke 23:34

“Father, forgive them, for they are not aware what they are doing.”

Not aware of what they were doing? After all that Jesus had said and done among them, How could they not be aware? Of course, we are looking in the face of the Father, Whose purpose of the eons *requires* this.

John 19:26-27

26 Jesus, then, perceiving His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by, is saying to His mother, “Woman, lo! your son!”

27 Thereafter He is saying to the disciple, “Lo! your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.

Remember the first commandment with a promise:

Exodus 20:12

“**Honor your father and** your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Jesus said that he came not to do away with the Law but to fulfill it. Before he died, He made sure His mother had a son who would care for her as his own. Jesus’ whole life AND His obedience unto death was all to honor His Father.

Hebrews 12:1-8

we also, having so vast a cloud of witnesses encompassing us, putting off every impediment and the popular sin, may be racing with endurance the contest lying before us,

2 looking off to the Inaugurator and Perfecter of faith, Jesus, Who, **for the joy lying before Him, endures a cross, despising the shame, besides is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

3 **For take into account the One Who has endured such contradiction by sinners while among them, lest you should be faltering, fainting in your souls.**

4 Not as yet unto blood did you repulse, when contending against sin.

5 And you have been oblivious of the entreaty which is arguing with you as with sons: My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord, Nor yet faint when being exposed by Him.

6 For whom the Lord is loving He is disciplining, Yet He is scourging every son to whom He is assenting.

7 For discipline are you enduring. As to sons is God bringing it to you, for what son is there whom the father is not disciplining?

8 Now if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, consequently you are bastards and not sons.