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Texts: Luke 19:28–44 & Philippians 2:5–11

Title: “The King Who Comes in Humility and Weeps with Compassion”

Introduction:

Grace and peace to you, beloved in Christ. Today, as we reflect on Luke 19:28–44 and Philippians 2:5–11, the Spirit leads us into a deep mystery—the arrival of Jesus as King, not in glory as the world expects, but in humility, sorrow, and obedience.

Luke paints for us a picture of Jesus entering Jerusalem. It is a moment filled with praise and joy, yet one that ends in tears. Paul, in Philippians, explains why Jesus chose such a path—because He emptied Himself, became obedient to death, and was exalted by God.

Let us open our hearts to hear what the Lord is saying through this story of royal entry, self-emptying, and divine compassion.

1. Jesus Enters as a Humble King (Luke 19:28–36)

Jesus approaches Jerusalem, and He instructs two disciples to fetch a colt—a young donkey, never ridden before. This is not an accident; it is prophecy fulfilled. Zechariah 9:9 had said: “Behold, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, humble and mounted on a donkey.”

Jesus does not come on a war horse. He comes on a lowly colt. He is not like Caesar or any earthly king. He is the Prince of Peace.

Why a donkey? Because the Kingdom of God is not established by power or violence, but by peace and obedience. Jesus is showing us that His Kingdom is upside down to the world. True leadership is servant leadership. True kingship is humility.

Let us ask ourselves: When we follow Christ, do we desire to ride high in power, or are we willing to walk low in service?

2. The Crowd Shouts Praise, but They Misunderstand (Luke 19:37–40)

As Jesus rides in, the people begin to rejoice. They lay their cloaks on the road—a sign of honour. They shout, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

They recognise Him as King—but their understanding is shallow. Many in the crowd expected a political liberator, someone to overthrow Roman rule. But Jesus did not come to conquer Rome—He came to conquer sin and death.

This is still our challenge today. We may praise Jesus with our lips, but do we understand His mission? Are we ready to follow a King who leads us to the cross before the crown?

3. Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44)

As Jesus sees the city, He weeps. Yes, our King cries. The crowd celebrates, but Jesus knows their hearts. He knows that soon the same voices will shout, “Crucify Him!” He weeps because they did not recognise the time of God’s visitation.

He weeps not out of weakness, but out of divine love. This is a warning and an invitation. If we harden our hearts, if we ignore God’s call, judgment will come—as it did to Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Jesus is not only our Saviour; He is our Judge. But He judges with tears. He warns with a broken heart. He longs for us to know the things that make for peace.

4. Christ’s Humility and Obedience (Philippians 2:5–8)

Paul, writing to the Philippians, urges them: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” What mind is that? A mind of humility, obedience, and self-giving love.

Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not cling to equality with God. He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant, and became obedient even to death on a cross.

This is the heart of the Gospel. God came down. The King stooped low. He exchanged His throne for a donkey, His crown for thorns, and His robe for a towel.

Beloved, do we have this mind in us? Are we willing to humble ourselves, to serve, to obey—even when it costs us?

5. The Exaltation of Christ (Philippians 2:9–11)

Because Jesus humbled Himself, God highly exalted Him. He gave Him the name above every name. One day, “every knee will bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

This is our hope: that the crucified King is now the exalted Lord. He reigns. He is victorious—not through violence, but through love. Not through pride, but through humility.

As the Church, we are called to live in light of this truth. We are citizens of a Kingdom that is not of this world. Our King reigns through a cross, not a sword.

Conclusion:

Dear friends, as we reflect on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and His journey to the cross, let us not be like the crowd who praised Him one day and rejected Him the next. Let us have the mind of Christ—humble, obedient, compassionate.

Let us welcome Him not just with palm branches, but with hearts surrendered. Let us weep with Him for the lost and rejoice with Him in the hope of resurrection.

And may our lives declare, with every breath: “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Amen.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, our humble King,
You came not with pride but with peace,
Not with armies but with compassion.
Forgive us for misunderstanding You.
Teach us to walk in Your way of humility and love.
May we weep with You for the brokenness of the world,
And may we rejoice in Your victory over sin and death.
Be the King of our hearts now and forever. Amen.

