

Peace in heaven reaches to the earth (Luke 19:28-48)

We are studying the Gospel of Luke. Today we will look at the second part of Cp 19. The title of today's message is "Peace in heaven reaches to the earth."

1. The casting of the Lord

28-36

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

Jesus was heading toward Jerusalem. Why was he going there?

Luke 18:31

³¹ Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

Jesus preached about the gospel of the kingdom of God. Some people had negative attitude against him, saying the kingdom of God wouldn't come. On the other hand, others thought the kingdom of God was about to come, as they saw Jesus heading toward Jerusalem.

But, coming of the kingdom of God is the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, all people will receive the judgment of God. So Jesus says, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem. Everything that the prophets wrote about the Son of Man will be

fulfilled." But they couldn't understand. They were so blind about Jesus.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was riding on a colt. One of prophecies about the Son of Man was fulfilled.

Zech 9:9

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus went on toward Jerusalem riding on a colt. That shows that he is the Christ whom God promised through prophets. At the same time, it proves that God will do what he promised. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. Therefore, the Bible encourages us, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." (Heb12:2)

Now, here is what is interesting. To fulfill prophecies, the Lord uses many different kinds of people.

Jesus said to two of his disciples to go, and they went. They found a colt and said to its owners what Jesus instructed them to say. The owner agreed. And they brought the colt to Jesus. And the colt carried Jesus on it back.

In order to fulfill Zechariah 9:9, the Lord needed two disciples, the owner of the colt, and the colt. Without them, the prophecy cannot be fulfilled.

Just before this part, we see a parable. There is a noble man. Before he went to his trip, he gave one mina to each of his ten servants. One servant earned ten minas. The man made him the ruler of ten cities. One servant earned five minas. The man made him the ruler of five cities. But one servant tucked it. The man took away one mina from him. This parable teaches us that how important to use what we are entrusted faithfully.

Let's go back to the scene where Jesus rode on a colt.

Jesus told two of his disciples to go, and they went. They found a colt and said to its owners what Jesus instructed them to say. They brought the colt to Jesus. They were faithful in their *mission*.

When Jesus' disciples said, 'The Lord needs it', the owners of the colt agreed that Jesus would use it. They were faithful in his *possession*.

The colt was brought to Jesus. It carried Jesus without any objection. It was faithful in its *vocation*.

Jesus told his disciples what would happen to him in Jerusalem. He would be handed over to gentiles, beaten and crucified. And three days later he would rise to life. But they could not understand. (Luke 18:31-34)

If they see Jesus die, they would surely lose heart. They may think it is the end, over, no use praying. But, that is the very moment when they should stand by faith which God have given them. That is the very moment when they must remember their mission and their vocation as children of God, get together, encourage each other, pray for one another, and receive power from God and stand up.

Jesus went to Jerusalem riding on a colt. God will do what he promised. In order to fulfill his word, God used a colt, its owner and disciples.

The Lord was going to use his disciples in greater way for His kingdom after this incident. What they needed was faith and obedience. They had to be faithful in their mission, possession and vocation.

It is the same for us. God will do what he promised. In order to fulfill this, he says "I need you." He will use each one of us here, for the glory of the kingdom of God. What we need is faith and obedience. We must be faithful in our mission, possession and vocation.

2. Peace of the Lord

37-40

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" ⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Pharisees were afraid that the Romans might come and oppress them

because of Jesus. (John 11:47-48) Following Jesus heading toward Jerusalem, disciples joyfully praised God loudly on the street. If the noise continues to be louder, the Romans might come to suppress them. If that happens, the Romans might oppress them even more. In order to maintain peace, the Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke his disciples.

They sought after peace. But they didn't know what true peace is. True peace only comes from peace with God. And we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:1)

Jesus went to Jerusalem riding on a colt. It testifies Jesus is Christ. People spread their cloaks on the road where Jesus went along. It testifies Jesus is king, and the Lord. (2 King 9:13)

Not only that. Disciples praised God joyfully in loud voices for all the miracles they had witnessed. All the works of Jesus testify that he is Christ, he and his Father are one, and he is God. And all his works glorify God, the Father.

John 10:24-25, 37-38

²⁴ The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, ³⁷ "Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. ³⁸ But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Once, when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to Jesus and asked if he was the coming one. He asked if Jesus was the Christ God promised.

He replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor." (Luke 7:22)

The works of Jesus testify that Jesus is the Christ whom God promised through prophets. Comparing to the Scripture, it is as clear as crystal that Jesus is the promised Christ.

However, Pharisees asked Jesus to silence his disciples when they were

shouting praises to God for all the works of Jesus. It is an open truth that Jesus is Messiah. It is shown by all his works. Pharisees also know about his works. But, they are so blind that they cannot recognize Jesus is Messiah, even though they saw his works, signs and wonders. That tells us something. Not everyone who sees miracles and wonders would come to know Jesus, nor believe in Him and receive Him as their savior and the Lord.

Sometimes I think it would be nice if things go like this. When I lay my hand on a sick and pray for him, immediately he gets healed. Then he believes in Jesus, and commits his life to Him. Hearing about this healing, many people come to our church, and they all get saved. Or, a miracle happens through me, such as I walk on the water or feed many people with five sheets of chapatti. Or, I see a wonderful vision of God's glory or hear God's voice about his secret. Then, I become very famous, and a lot of people come to our church, I preach, and they believe and become Jesus' disciples in an instant.

But as we look at the gospels, and observe Jesus' life, mission doesn't go so easy. People looked as if they were following Jesus, but they were actually just looking for free food from Jesus. (John 6:26) People seemed rejoicing to have Jesus for a short while, but when they hear him say something didn't make sense for them, they immediately left him. (John 6:66) It is like a seed fell on rocky ground or in the weeds which cannot grow, nor bear fruit. There is no short cut for our mission: witnessing the Gospel, making disciples and building up the church.¹

The Pharisees asked Jesus to silence his disciples when they were shouting praises to God for all the works of Jesus. Did they not know the teachings of the Old Testament? So that's why they couldn't recognize Jesus as the promised Christ? They studied the law very well, and tried to observe them seriously. Then what was their problem? There was a gap between their understanding and God's message. Jesus saw that problem and said to them, "You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." (Mark7:8)

They are like the servant who received one mina from his master, but tucked it away and didn't use it. They didn't use properly what they were given. And they are also like the citizens who rejected to receive the man as their king.

¹ Through Aeneas' healing, many people in the towns of Lydda and Sharon became followers of the Lord. (Acts 9:35) They took a part of the flock of disciples which was under heavy persecution.

They didn't accept Jesus who came to his kingdom as the king. He is Prince of peace. (Isaiah 9:6) Where Prince of peace is rejected there is no true peace.

3. Peace in heaven reaches to the earth

Luke 19:38

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Here it says, "Peace in heaven."

In Luke 2:14, it says, "Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."
(CEV)

If we combine these two verses, we can interpret it like this. There is perfect peace in heaven. This peace in heaven will appear among people who please God. And that peace is not only for them. But God will use them to bring this peace to everywhere on earth.

1) Peace in heaven.

Peace in heaven. In other words, there is no such peace on earth.

We may have many concerns and worries in our minds. Regrets over the past. "I should have done this, nor I shouldn't have done that." Anxieties for the future. "If this happens, what shall I do? If this plan doesn't come true, what will my life be like?" Uncertainty in the present. "Am I doing the right thing? What if I'm heading toward the wrong direction?" Those worries occupy our mind. And we don't have peace.

Moreover, not only in our heart, but also there are many things around us which disturb our heart.

The devil and Satan deceives the whole world. (Rev 12:9, NASB)

As the day of the Son of Man is coming near, the Bible warns us, "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction." "When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened." (2 Thess 1:3, Luke 21:8-9)

Once disciples had experience like this.

One evening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go across to the other side of the lake." As they sailed, a storm formed. The winds whipped up huge waves that broke over the bow, filling the boat with so much water that even the experienced sailors among them were sure they were going to sink. Jesus was back in the stern of the boat, sound asleep on a cushion, when the disciples shook Him awake. They said "Master, don't You care that we're about to drown?" (Mark 4:35-38)

Our life on earth is like the small boat tossed by waves. You may feel you can go down anytime. "God, don't You care that I'm about to drown?"

2) God will establish peace.

Isaiah 26:12

Lord, You will establish peace for us. (NASB)

God will give peace to us who lives on earth where there is no peace. Does it mean that we can have peace in a specific situation in a specific time?

2 Thess 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

The Lord is not just speaking the ideal without knowing our circumstances. He knows that we have distress, trouble and suffering in this world. (John 16:33) He became a human like us, and experienced earthly hardship in the same way we experience. (Phi 2:7)

Jesus gives us his peace. (John 14:27)

What is his peace like? When he said this to his disciples, he was about to come to the cross. He said that he would be made fun, mistreated, spitted, beaten, and crucified.

He knew that was about to happen. (Luke 18:32-33) Surely, he wasn't comfortable about it at all. He actually prayed, "If it is possible, don't let this happen to me." (Mark 14:36) Even in this extreme situation, his heart and mind were guarded by peace in God, which transcends all human understanding. That

is his peace.

Jesus will give us that kind of peace. It doesn't mean everything will go well and will be done as we wish. It doesn't mean that everybody will understand us, accept us, and like us. We may be still in the same situation where we cry out, "If possible, don't let this happen to me." But we can experience His peace, which transcends all understanding. And this peace guards our heart and mind in Jesus even in the midst of all our trouble, pain and distress.

Col 1:20

by Him [Jesus], whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (NKJ)

This is the promise of God. This is the good news for everybody on earth.

3) God will use us to bring this peace in heaven to everywhere on earth.

Rom 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We can't share what we don't have. First, God gives us the peace in heaven. Then, he will use us to bring this peace, on earth.

Matt 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Making peace. We don't have to do something extraordinary to make peace.

When Jesus went on riding on a colt, people spread their cloaks on the road. It is the action expressing their joy over king's enthronement. (2 King 9:13) When we praise the Lord together, worship him together, rejoice him together, we welcome Jesus, the prince of peace among us. We proclaim that he is the king of kings, the lord of lords.

We may feel there is no peace in many areas of our daily lives. Then

remember that we are sent into the world to bring peace of heaven. First of all, we must welcome Jesus, the prince of peace, into that situation, into that relationship, into that society, and into that nation. We welcome His kingship into that chaotic situation, and let Him rule in the situation starting from our heart.

We might think each one of us is too small and too weak to change the world, no matter what we do. Probably it is true. But it is God Himself who brings peace there, not our might nor power. God will fulfill what he promised. For this purpose, he will say "I need you." He will use His children, each one of us here, to bring peace of heaven, into this crying world. God used even a colt to fulfill his promise. If so, God can use us for his glorious work. What we need is faith and obedience. We must be faithful in our mission, possession and vocation.

The Lord needs all his children to fulfill his word. He will use each one of us to bring his peace, his blessing, and his glory, onto the earth.