

Advent One
Year of the Lord 2021

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee!”**

Luke 19:28–40 When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” *And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”*

In the Name of Jesus:

Actually, my dear ones, there is no ‘IF’ about Jesus’ last line there on the Palm Sunday reading. The day CAME when the disciples of Jesus were silent. Saint Paul tells the Thessalonian baby-Christians about how those who cheered on Jesus as King in Jerusalem were persecuted, chased out of the Holy City or driven to meet under cover, finally forbidden to meet in the Temple of the Real God. Before the King had pity on Paul, HE was Saul, persecutor of the church and murderous holy man. He and his gang had so eliminated the Christians from Jerusalem, Saul had to go to another city—another COUNTRY!—to find disciples of Jesus to harm.

Please bear with your poor pastor when I correct the translators of the Bible. I am trying to limit it to the most important items. The text as we have it says ‘If these WERE silent, the very stones WOULD cry out.’ No. Too weak. ‘WHEN these, my disciples—when they WILL BE SILENT, the very stones WILL CRY out!’

They did cry out, those stones. September 8, in the Year of Our Lord seventy. I was going to quote the historian Josephus for y’all today. He recorded the saddest account of the Romans breaking down the walls of Jerusalem in the generation after Christ ascended to heaven. They set fire to the temple also; and the stones echoed with the most piteous crying. But then I deleted the historian, because we don’t need to hear about such fire and slaughter in a New Testament temple, our little hovel of a church here. Suffice it to say that the wailing wall in Jerusalem stands as an echo from 70 A.D., September 8, when the very stones of the temple began to crash to the ground. Imagine the noise.

Why? When there was precisely ONE building, ONE place in all the world, of all people, in which men doomed to die and then be judged could meet with the Judge and have their doom removed—WHY did Real God make this happen?

My dear ones, I am going to give y’all an answer that CANNOT satisfy ANY of us natural-born sinners. But it is the answer the King of the Jews Himself gave: the Gospel.

The Unspeakable One Whom old Israel worshiped had come to the Jews in PRECISELY what they always wanted: a hero-man, powerful, wonder-working, that men could rally ‘round and wave the flag. But when the Creator came as one of His own creatures, it all came out. We men SAY we want a ruler to make us proud, to make our chests puff out, our heads swell, and our bank accounts!

But the 24-hour news cycle in our doomed land reveals the truth. We elect men and women to give us—we have NO idea what! And when they don’t give us what we have no firm idea about, down go their poll numbers, and we give ourselves license to

blaspheme the ones WE say WE elect, but who are ACTUALLY elected by the Real, One God.

My dear ones, even we, who calls ourselves ‘people of Christ,’ ‘Christ-ers,’ or whatever—the Gospel according to Saint Luke says WE...DO...NOT...WANT...THIS...KING!

I beg you not to deny this! Simon Peter stands for us all in the face of our King going to God’s ONLY people to suffer. Jesus instructed His disciples, Simon Peter as their chief:

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.¹

⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished....²

³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”³

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 9:23–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 5:4–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly. ⁴

But then, the Day of Resurrection; the disciples who walked with Jesus to Emmaus ran back to Jerusalem:

And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ⁵

Yes.... To SIMON! It's all good with us and Jesus our King when WE can see ourselves in that man, Simon Peter!

Dear Christians: we have a King we do not want; or, at the bare minimum y'all can agree with me that we have a King we cannot obey. If he was like every other leader of the world, He could tell us whom to harm and off we could go! How often has that happened in what we call the history of the Christian Church?

But this is the charge of our King, Whose Advent we now begin to commemorate:

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:54–62). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 24:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” ⁶

You know, if you have ever tried to be Jesus’ disciple, what happens when we throw our hearts into THAT religion.

How then dare WE cry out the same words from Palm Sunday?
The Hosannas and such we sing every celebration of Holy Communion?

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 6:24–38). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Ah! Now, there's your answer!

We cannot choose Him. Nevertheless, He chooses us!

We are JUST as prone as the rest of our fellow idolators to boast that WE have a God-thing going on that sets US apart from others. And yet, despite what WE claim, THEEEEE...GOD-THING, the God-Man, the God they crucified and mocked and buried—He rules only those over whom He says again and again:

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”⁷

There is a temple not made of stones that can cry out. There is a meeting place of Real God with ONLY real, solid, hard-boiled sinners. Where HE GIVES what no man wants; and where WE eat His Body and drink His Blood and make ONE claim about OUR KING: HE...CLAIMS...US!

The best of works YOU can do, dear disciple of Jesus, is to thank God for your fellow communicants, strengthen them, and find joy in them, until the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Make your ‘Hosannas’ and ‘blessings’ of God about THEM, the ones such a King claims as His own, and YOU then are the meeting place of real sinners and the Real God. And ALL men can sing, ‘Peace in heaven and glory in the highest, in the Name of Jesus!’

⁷ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:31–32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.