

Have you ever had “buyer’s remorse”?

- When you saved up for that thing you really wanted, and then it ended up being a lemon; Or
- you thought it was going to be the greatest thing ever, and you just don’t have a use for it;
- The government you voted for, that ended up being a huge disappointment; or
- the person you married..... No, let’s stop there...

Here’s my buyer’s remorse: It’s a Sennheiser BT T100 audio transmitter. I needed it. Do you know why? Because I’m deaf. Basically it transmits sound via blue-tooth, to some blue-tooth headphones I have. And its specifications assured me that it’s “low latency” – That means it does its job very quickly. They lied.

*So, when I’m watching a movie, the picture is there and the lips are moving, and the sound is coming through (and it’s really good), but the sound is delayed because it processes it and transmits it to the headphones too slowly. And so the lips are all out of sync. And so if I was deaf **and** blind, it would be fine. But because I’m only half-deaf and half-blind, it’s no good to me.*

Buyer’s remorse.

Today is Palm Sunday.

The Sunday before Jesus was crucified, He rode a young donkey into Jerusalem, and the crowds lined the road,

cheering Him on. They were welcoming their long-awaited Messiah king.

But by the end of the week, the crowds had “buyer’s remorse” of the most extreme kind.

They went from the Sunday parade, laying their coats down as a red carpet for Jesus to ride across “³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

But by Friday the buyer’s remorse had set in. “**Crucify Him!!!**”.... That would have to be the most extreme ‘buyer’s remorse’ ever.

Because today is Palm Sunday, we’ve skipped a long way ahead in our series on Luke. And because Luke is such a lengthy gospel, to the best of my figuring, (provided Jesus hasn’t returned in glory by this time next year), (which He could very well do), But if He hasn’t, we’ll probably be back in this section of Luke **next** Palm Sunday, which is a good thing, because there’s a lot in it. And so this is going to be a 2-part message, separated by a year. I hope that’s OK.

Righto: Because we’ve skipped ahead, I need to set the scene.

Jesus has been ministering out in the regional areas. The message of Jesus is being well received by the populace, and they’re loving the miracles and whatnot, but there is a growing and ever-present animosity toward Him from the Pharisees

and the religious hierarchy (who are mostly based in Jerusalem).

From chapter 9 (transfiguration), the scene is set, that Jesus is going to accomplish something at Jerusalem. And He sets His face toward Jerusalem, and throughout the following chapters, we're told numerous times, that He's heading toward Jerusalem.

And so the tension's building, **and** the expectations are building.

And **immediately** before the bit that we've just read, Jesus tells a parable, and the reason that He tells the parable, is ^{19:11} ... because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.

And Jesus had to correct them on this: The Kingdom of God is **not** going to appear immediately. And they're **not** going to get what they're expecting when Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. And I'm not going to explain the whole parable, but in a nutshell, this is its point:

1. the Kingdom of God is **not** going to appear immediately;
2. Most people will **hate** Jesus and not want Him to be their king;
3. Those who **are** faithful, have been entrusted with the Gospel, and we are to be productive in carrying on Jesus' business of spreading the Word and growing faith until

He returns;

4. When Jesus returns **next** time, this is when He will be established as the King.
5. Those who hated/reject Him (He refers to them as enemies), will be judged and slaughtered.

Alright, so He's given a parable to explain this

- the Kingdom of God is **not** going to appear immediately;
- Most people will **hate** Him and not want Him to be their king;

And then Palm Sunday happens.

As He's getting close to Jerusalem, He sends a couple of disciples into a village to collect a donkey. We don't know if this was pre-arranged – it appears as if it was not. But Jesus gives the disciples the password: ³¹ **If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.' "**

Was it pre-arranged? Or did the owners have a dream that this would happen? I have no idea. But when the owners **did** see them unhitching the colt, they asked them, "What are you lot up to?" And the Disciples gave the password, "**The Lord has need of it.**" and apparently that was ok by them.

So they took the colt back to Jesus and put their cloaks on it as a saddle and put Jesus on top of it. And as He rode along, His disciples (BTW, this isn't just 'the twelve' – we are told it was **the whole multitude of his disciples**) were spreading their coats on the road as a carpet, and as they got closer to Jerusalem, **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,** ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

That sort of stuff got the hackles up on the Pharisees. ³⁹ ... some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ ... [and Jesus said] **"I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."**

And so there's this joyous procession, praising God for Jesus...

They obviously did not get the point of Jesus' parable (The kingdom **isn't** coming just yet.... And most people are going to hate Jesus – they won't want Him as their king....)... And so we've got this joyous procession – "The Kingdom's here now, because the King's arrived." Woo Hoo.

But in reality, what were they celebrating? They were praising Him for the mighty works they had seen:

- The healings;

- The miracles;
- The feeding of the multitudes;
- The bringing back to life of a dead son;

They were praising Him for the mighty works they had seen.

All the indicators of what they fell-in-love-with about Jesus, is the immediacy of the miracles.

But they could **not** see, and they did **not** understand, that the kingdom was not yet, **and** that the King would be **hated** by many.

So what happened?

When Jesus got close to the city, our translation told us He wept over Jerusalem. And we might get the impression that He had a bit of a sniffle and shed a few private tears. But the original Greek word is more “He Bawled; He howled; He wailed”... The emphasis is more on the noise accompanying the weeping. This was no private shedding of a few tears – It’s an immense, overwhelming, outpouring of grief.

What upset Jesus so much?

When Jesus looked down upon Jerusalem, He knew what was going to happen to them. And the reason it was going to happen is because they did not recognise that the one who was riding the donkey down into town, was the Prince of Peace – The Son of God...

Jesus said: **you did not know the time of your visitation.**

- Oh, if only you knew who you were rejecting....
- If only you knew today, what would make peace for you...
- But you can't see it – it's hidden from your eyes...

And He could see their future. They were looking for a leader who would lead them into victory over Rome – Someone who would lead a rebellion against Rome.

And Jesus knew, that when they found a person to do that, Rome would once again do what they were very efficient at – conquer a fortified city. They'd build siege works and starve them out. And to make an example out of them, tear the city down to its foundations.

And so when the people did rebel, in year 70AD, the Romans made their counter-attack.

- A wall was built around the city;
- siege works were constructed,
- and eventually the city was taken

Titus, wanted to starve them out. And so, at Passover time, he allowed all the pilgrims to come into the besieged city, and then he wouldn't let them out. With a swollen population, the food disappeared quickly. And an estimated 600 000 people starved to death¹.

And when they finally broke into the city, the destruction was complete. Let me read you an account of the time:

*Only the three great towers of Herod, Hippicus, Pharsel and Mariamne, with the western walls, were spared to protect the camp of the Xth Legion which was left to guard the site, **and** "in order to demonstrate to posterity what kind of city it was and how well fortified"; ... the rest of the city was dug up to its foundations (Jewish Wars, VII, i, 1).ⁱⁱ*

Why?

This happened because they were after a political or military victory. What they were after, was someone to lead an uprising of the people against their oppressors, and do it immediately. But Jesus never came for that.

They did not know the time of their visitation. God had come in Jesus Christ His Son. And they crucified Him. And they completely misunderstood the whole Kingdom of God thing...

Some 2000 years have now past. Do we now understand the Kingdom of God thing???

I want to ask that question from 2 different perspectives.

Firstly, for those who are not yet saved.

- Jesus was the King, who made an appearance
- people had the wrong idea about Him;
- ultimately He was rejected, and crucified.

But this was all part of God's plan. Jesus died, to pay the penalty of our sins. And all who receive Jesus as their King, and submit themselves to Him, await His return and the coming of His glorious Kingdom.

Those who **don't** want Jesus as their king, are enemies of Jesus – they've chosen to be enemies of Jesus, and so when Jesus returns to reign in His kingdom, where will you be at? Will you be welcoming your King? Or will you be an enemy of the King?

Will you have your eyes opened today, to know what will bring you peace with God? Or is it hidden from your eyes?

You see, that's the situation, and we need to choose this day, if Jesus is my King, and I'm going to be His disciple, carrying on His business until He returns, or if I am His enemy.

There is no in-between. I'm either **all in** for Jesus, or I'm against Him.

Do you understand the Kingdom of God? Jesus came, but He's coming again.

Secondly, is for those who have committed themselves as Disciples of Jesus.

Do **we** understand the Kingdom of God? Do we understand that the Kingdom isn't about:

- immediate worldly blessings
- a political movement;

- an uprising of the people to take up arms to overthrow a tyranny;
- forcing change upon people through legislation...

This world predominantly hates Jesus. And this world will go from bad to worse. We've been told that. And Christians will be persecuted and go through trouble and tribulation.

The people of Jerusalem had buyer's remorse because they were ready for an immediate fulfilment of all of their hopes and dreams. But it wasn't going to be immediate. Jesus **would** return as King, but we're still waiting for Him.

And there are some today who actively hitch their wagon to the Jesus movement because they expect (or they've been told to expect) that their blessings will be immediate. But as soon as things don't work out as they had hoped or as they had been promised, they have buyer's remorse, and fall away.

True Disciples of Jesus do not have a problem with buyer's remorse, because we go into it with our eyes wide open: We wait for You Lord Jesus. We proclaim You as King, and we wait for you to come with Your Kingdom.

Amen.

ⁱ (Jewish Wars, V, xiii, 7), in International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

ⁱⁱ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia