

In or Out?

Luke 19:28-48

Palm Sunday 2025

Intro

"In or out?"

[expand — my parents asking me this when I was a kid...]

- And I believe that is the very same question that the Lord Jesus asks people on a daily basis — ***"In or Out?"***...

When the Lord Jesus asks a person, *"In or out?"*, He is asking the question, *"Do you want to enter into relationship with Me or do you want to remain outside?"*...

- The Lord is asking, *"Do you want to be forgiven? Do you want to become a new person with a new purpose?"*...

And the reason the Lord Jesus asks these questions is because we are all born into this world as *enemies of Christ*...

- We all come into this world as lost sinners who are *outside* — we are *outside* of a saving relationship with our Creator...

For more on this subject, would you please turn to...

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

The harsh reality is that ***all human beings*** are born ***on the outside*** — *on the outside* of a relationship with their Creator...

- But the good news is that Christ invites us ***inside*** — He opens the door so that we might come inside and enjoy relationship with Him...

We see this truth in...

John 10:9-10 (NKJV)

9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Now, if you would please turn to the passage that we will be studying this morning — Luke 19:28-48...

- [expand on why we are studying this passage — today is Palm Sunday...]

In this study we will focus on three primary topics leading to a single conclusion...

- ***First, we will focus on the fact that worshiping the Lord Jesus is the definition of Proper Praise...***
- ***Next, we will be reminded that a failure to receive the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord is a Foolish Rejection...***
- ***Finally, we will come to grips with the fact that a lifetime of foolish rejection leads to being Driven Out...***

Let's move into our first section...

1) Proper Praise (vs 28-40)

*On the subject of **praise**, CS Lewis writes...*

"I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise...The world rings with praise — readers [praising] their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their game...I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is the appointed consummation."

The reality is that we were created to praise — when our praise is properly directed then our lives will be properly directed...[expand]

With that said, in this first section of our study we come to the most public instance of praise in the life of the Lord Jesus...

*It is the event that is commonly referred to as **The Triumphal Entry** — which took place on the Sunday of the last week of the Lord Jesus' earthly ministry...*

28 When He had said this

The Lord Jesus had just given the Parable of the Minas which is very similar to the Parable of the Talents — being faithful with what is entrusted to you...

When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

We understand that the Lord Jesus was willingly moving toward the worst **suffering** and **death** in human history...
[expand]

And it is heartbreaking to think about how difficult that trip must have been for the Lord Jesus because he knew what was coming...

Luke 18:31-33 (NKJV)

31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.

32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon.

33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Continuing on in Luke 19:29-31...

29 And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples,

30 saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here.

31 And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' "

The Lord Jesus was about to fulfill...

Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV)

**“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

REMEMBER — Though the Lord Jesus came into Jerusalem as a Suffering Savior on a donkey, when He returns it will be as a Conquering King on a white horse...

To prove my point please turn to...

Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Please turn back to Luke 19 as we move into vs...

32 So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them.

APPLICATION — We can trust that things will be just as the Lord Jesus says they will be — so let's just do what He asks us to do...[expand]

[ex. Aggie Baseball game — down 12-2 but Brandi saw that they won 15-12 — we watched the replay of the last 3 innings in anticipation — we knew they were going to win — we just didn't know how...]

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

It is the Lord's job to work all things together for the good — our job is to simply obey Him — to simply do the things that He has commanded us to do...

Continuing on in Luke 19 we come to vs...

33 But as they were losing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you losing the colt?"

34 And they said, "The Lord has need of him."

It seems that the owner of the colt was a follower of the Lord Jesus so the owner releases the colt to the disciples...

APPLICATION QUESTION — Are we releasing what we own for the Lord to use?...[expand]

[ex. farmer with two sheep — dedicated one to the Lord...]

When it comes to the subject of releasing our resources back to the Lord, the Apostle Paul puts it all in perspective in...

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

So, everything that we have belongs to the Lord Jesus — we are merely **stewards** and not **owners**...[expand]

*Moving on now in **Luke 19** to vs...*

35 Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him.

The disciples honor the Lord Jesus by using their **clothes** as a saddle for the Lord...[expand]

36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road.

These individuals are offering praise to the Lord and it involves a costly sacrifice...[expand on expense of clothes]

- [ex. action is similar to rolling out the red carpet — but the red carpet doesn't cost those people anything — true praise will cost us something...]

37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,

To better understand what is going on here, let's turn to the Apostle John's account of The Triumphal Entry...

John 12:12-18 (NKJV)

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

“Hosanna!

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’
The King of Israel!”**

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

**15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”**

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

- [expand on the raising of Lazarus playing into this scene...]

Back now to Luke 19 as we move into vs...

38 saying:

**" 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!'
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'"**

The crowd is getting pumped — they are praising the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah...[expand]

One author

"All history had pointed toward this single, spectacular event when the Messiah publicly presented Himself to the nation, and God desired that this fact be acknowledged."

Now, I must admit that I'm not sure that this excited crowd knew what they were talking about...

I'm not sure they realized exactly who Jesus was...

And I say this because here is this crowd praising Him on *Sunday* but by the time we reach the following *Friday* a crowd will be crying out for Him to be crucified — (same individuals?)...

*One thing we can be sure of is this — it is absolutely **proper** to **praise** the Lord Jesus Christ — The Lord Jesus makes this perfectly clear as we move on to vs...*

39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

[expand — who the Pharisees are and them not wanting the people to praise Jesus — they rejected the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah...]

40 But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

[expand — the Lord Jesus *should be praised* — if people do not praise Him *then creation will...*]

For more on this subject of praising the Lord Jesus, please turn to...

Philippians 2:8-11 (NKJV)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[expand on everyone giving the Lord Jesus **Proper Praise** — do it the easy way and praise Him now — no one should wait until they are forced to do so...]

- [ex. being out in the sun when you are at the beach and being out in the sun when you are in the desert — same sun either way but your **circumstances** determine your **perspective**...]

In a similar way, where we find ourselves — as **believers** or as **unbelievers** — determines how we view the Lord Jesus — but He is Who He is no matter how we view Him...[expand]

*Now, this subject of giving the Lord Jesus **Proper Praise** is not a minor issue...*

John 5:21-23 (NKJV)

21 “For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

If a person is not living a life that **properly praises** Jesus Christ then either that person is not **in Christ** (that person is an unbeliever who needs to trust in Him) or that person is a believer **in need of repentance** (getting back into right relationship with Him)...[expand]

*Let's turn back to **Luke 19** as we move from **Proper Praise** to our second section...*

2) Foolish Rejection (vs 41-44)

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

As the Lord Jesus laments over Jerusalem, we should ask why the city as a whole failed to recognize Him as Messiah — why was this truth hidden from their eyes?...[expand]

The answer is that they had simply refused to see the signs...

Ultimately, the people of Israel refused to believe because the Lord Jesus did not perform the signs that they wanted Him to perform...

• [expand on *Suffering Savior vs Conquering King*...]

*And the result of this **Foolish Rejection** is recorded for us as we turn to...*

John 12:37-40 (NKJV)

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.”

- [ex. compare to Pharaoh in the book of Exodus...]

As we think about this, it is interesting to note that the majority of arguments presented against the God of the Bible are basically variations of the reason Israel refused to believe in Jesus Christ...

And the arguments go something like this...

"If I were God I would not do things the way the God of the Bible does them, therefore, He must not be the true God."

And that is the heart of ***Foolish Rejection...***

"I disagree with the God of the Bible therefore the God of the Bible must not exist"...

But truth is not truth simply because I agree with it...

- Something is true because it corresponds with reality...

The **true** is that which is **real**, not that which is **desired**...

- Unfortunately, the majority of the Jewish nation disagreed with Jesus' way of doing things *so they rejected Him*...

And that rejection and the continual desire to throw off the yoke of Rome would result in the destruction of Jerusalem — the Lord Jesus prophesied this as we turn back to Luke 19 and move into vs 43-44...

43 “For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

One Bible teacher explains...

"This is precisely the method used by Titus when he laid siege to Jerusalem in 70AD. He surrounded the city on April 9, cutting off all supplies, and trapping thousands of people who had been in Jerusalem for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread...The Romans systematically built embankments around the city, gradually starving the city's inhabitants. The Romans held the city in this manner through the summer, defeating various sections of the city one by one. The final overthrow of the city occurred in early September."

*So, the **rejection** of Jesus Christ — for any reason whatsoever — is **foolishness** and it will result in being....*

3) Driven Out (vs 45-48)

45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,

46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

- [expand on the Temple-approved sacrifices and the Sadducees being unconcerned with spiritual things — were just in it for the money...]

The focus of those **buying** and **selling** in the temple was on the **here** and **now**...[expand]

The Lord Jesus warned against this type of attitude in...

Mark 8:36-37 (NKJV)

36 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

- Now, when the Lord Jesus cleansed the Temple I believe that what He was doing **physically** represented a **spiritual** reality...

You see, when a person refuses to offer the Lord Jesus **Proper Praise** and when that person **Foolishly Rejects** the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah then the horrible result is being **Driven Out** from God's presence...[expand]

The Lord Jesus was very clear when He said this in...

John 14:6 (NKJV)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

And Peter put it this way in...

Acts 4:12

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Moving on in Luke 19 to vs...

47 And He was teaching daily in the temple.

- The Lord Jesus continued to teach those who would listen...
[expand...]

But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him,

48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

- Unfortunately, the religious leaders were looking for the right opportunity to kill Jesus...

They refused to offer the Lord Jesus ***Proper Praise***, they had ***Foolishly Rejected*** Him and in the end they would find themselves ***Driven Out*** from the Kingdom of God...[expand]

Conclusion

So, as we begin to wrap-up our time together we've seen today that the Lord Jesus deserves ***Proper Praise***...

- And hopefully you agree with me that refusing to submit to Jesus as Savior and Lord — failing to recognize Him as the promised Messiah is a ***Foolish Rejection***...

Furthermore, we've been reminded that a failure to receive the Lord Jesus as Lord and Savior will ultimately result in being ***Driven Out from the presence of God***...

*With that said, the Lord Jesus would rather **not** drive anyone out...*

You see, if ***anyone*** turns to Christ by faith that person will be born again — that person will be able to partake of the astounding riches, blessings and honor that are available ***in Christ...***

With that said, I'd like to close our time together by having you turn to one final passage...

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him.

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

So, I ask you — “Are you IN or OUT?”...

• If you are IN then rejoice in the Lord Jesus and continually offer Him proper praise...[expand]

If you are OUT then I pray you would come IN today and experience new life in Him...[expand]

[close in prayer...]