

The Laws of Divine Physics

Scripture: Luke 19:28 – 40 and Matthew 21:1 - 11

4/2/23 – Palm Sunday

Let's start out today with a physic lesson: Does anyone know Newton's Third Law of Physics?

Newton's Third Law of Physics tells us – For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. This law is based on the idea that there are equal and opposite forces working together in every interaction. Though subtle, this law is prevalent in nature and it can be observed in all of nature, even in our own lives through cause and effect.

What is interesting about today's scripture reading from the Gospel of Luke is the subtle implication of the law of physics. Yes my friends, the bible contains some physics!

In responding to the Pharisees who asked Jesus to silence the praises of his disciples and the people on the first Palm Sunday, Jesus introduced a law of his own. That law is – if the disciples and the people did not offer praise, nature would be compelled to act! The action of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem required an equal and opposite reaction of praise. On the day Christ entered Jerusalem an equal and opposite reaction happened – the Pharisees started to plot for Jesus' death.

We cannot underestimate what it meant that Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph. Throughout his years, Jesus lived a near clandestine life. He lived outside of Jerusalem in the Galilean area. Jesus wove his way throughout the countryside from scene to scene healing and performing miracles. Jesus was trying not to disrupt the cosmos too much before his time. He silenced those who wanted to talk about him and he hardly ever made a public display of his lordship.

But on Palm Sunday, on this occasion, he held nothing back!

Jesus entered Jerusalem to cheering crowds. The heavens could not hold it any longer! The earth had grown weary of keeping it in. Sooner or later, someone or something had to react to God Incarnate. Silence was not an option. During this celebration because of Jesus' Lordship, the people could not help but to cheer loudly and boisterously. They shouted praises!

Let us shout praises also! Let us shout – 'Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest!' Are you ready?

(People in chapel shout)

The cause of Christ provoked an effort worthy of a King entering Jerusalem.

According to Newton's Third Law of Physics, our mere existence warrants praise. The breath we breathe must be returned to God in thanksgiving. The act of leaning into God's presence results in a natural reaction of peace and joy. Our very lives call for shouts of joy that must come from somewhere, even if it happens to be a stone!

This trip to Jerusalem was not Jesus first journey to the Holy City. As a devout Jew, Jesus would have gone to city every year for the three great feasts. In the past three years, Christ had also ministered and taught in Jerusalem. But on Palm Sunday, the city was radically different!

By riding a young donkey into Jerusalem at a time when thousands of worshippers were coming into the city, Jesus was the center of attention. Why would Jesus take the place of prominence before thousands of people? Why would he do it today even though he had gone into Jerusalem many times? On his other trips Jesus would deliberately take a low profile. Why are things different now? Why would he accept the people's praises and proclamation that he was King just five days before his death?

In Matthew's Gospel it says this took place to fulfill the 500 year old prophecy that God's chosen king would come into Jerusalem righteously and victoriously, yet lowly and riding on a donkey.

This was truly an unusual way for a triumphant king to enter a city. Conquering kings normally rode on mighty stallions. But Jesus did not come riding on a warhorse. This reveals what kind of King Jesus is. Jesus came in meekness and lowliness. Jesus came not for war, but for peace. Jesus established peace between God and us!

Thank Jesus and let us shout one more time - 'Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest!'

Let us pray:

O God, we acknowledge that your presence requires praise. We praise you for the triumphant victory through Christ. Let our lives reflect just a portion of the glory you deserve.

Thank you Jesus for coming into Jerusalem to reveal your mighty and humble ways. Fill our hearts with your peace. AMEN.