

Luke 19:11-48

You have a choice, deny King Jesus or rely on him.

We are given abundant choices in our lives. We are actually “fat” with choices.

Name a cereal you like... or the cereal you only get when grandma is in town!

Because we heard more than “Muesli” proves we have lots to choose from.

We have so many choices we don't even realize how overwhelming choice is baked into our Western experience.

- If you don't like what you pay, or how good the reception is on your phone, choose a different carrier (and they will give you a new phone.)
- Download speeds like a turtle, change internet providers.
- Just think of the number of “milk” options at Starbucks!

We could go on. We have a wealth of choices, and we often take that experience into our souls and even create some new choices of our own! Even when it comes to faith.

Ewen is often asking, as we drive through town, how churches are different from ours. Lots of options.

All of them though must point to an ultimate choice we must make.

There is a King you need to recognize and you will either deny him or rely on him.

Here is Jesus, teaching of his kingdom. 19:48 “...all the people were hanging on his words.”

A preacher's dream! Reminds me on an encounter in John 6. Jesus had done miraculous signs of provision and care, and he had spoken some penetrating words of choice - major rejection...

John 6:66–69 “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. [67] So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” [68] Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, [69] and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” (ESV)

We want to be like the disciples. All we are about - these words of life. Forgiveness, wholeness, freedom, forever.

As Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, where he has been heading since chapter 9, there is a new audience but the same message. The same words of life. The Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in Jesus, come and follow him.

In these two and a half chapters that follow, the story unfolds, or receiving or rejecting the King - that's all we want to look at today.

Jesus is King. He is the One promised to God's people, and he has arrived. And the events that follow in Luke's Gospel solidify this reality.

Hebrews 1:1–3 “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. [3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (ESV)

You have a choice, deny King Jesus or rely on him.

In the text we read, there is a parable and a parade. A picture of denial and a picture of praise.

Denying Jesus

Israel was a promised people. Waiting for the perfect king - the child to be born, the redeemer to save.

All through his ministry, Jesus has been warning the religious that they have been missing it. That generations had gotten the way of God wrong. Proof in judgment, exile, and now occupation.

They had put their hopes in many kings but all of them failed so they waited for another one that would storm the castle and redeem Israel. But the One who declares:

Luke 4:18–19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (ESV)

...he is different.

Their expectations were off. So Jesus tells a parable. A warning “because they supposed that the Kingdom of God was to appear immediately.”

A nobleman went to a far country to receive a kingdom and return. This was the Roman way, appealing to Caesar for a kingdom.

Calling ten servants he gave out ten minas (a mina equals three months wages) and told them to keep the economy going. “Engage in business until I come.”

So they do - some of them - one gets a hefty return, one less, and one none.

Now, I have only ever heard this text preached as a rally for stewardship of what the Lord has given to you - take care of what you have so you can cash in later. So you can rule over some cities.

Stewardship, savvy investing, and business is good. But that’s not what this parable is about!

This is about those that reject the King.

Luke 19:14 “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ (ESV)

Given promises, given a land, a nation - all of it squandered. A set-apart people meant to exemplify the worship of the One true God, doing the opposite of what he has said. Prophets have come to warn them, and now Jesus has come preaching of how they have missed it.

Luke 19:27 “But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.” (ESV)

They put trust in their own righteousness. Redefined the kingdom to their liking. Refused the way of the King, the way of God.

Receive a bloody, bad result.

As he preaches in the Temple he will tell it another way.

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants - **Luke 20:9–16** “And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. [10] When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. [11] And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. [12] And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. [13] Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ [14] But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ [15] And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? [16] He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” (ESV)

Spoiled in their waiting. Prophets beat and treated shamefully. A beloved son they would decide to kill.

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”?

Instead of challenging the Roman rulers when he arrives in Jerusalem, Jesus targets the misconduct of God's own people and thus becomes the object of their anger and persecution. Because they deny him, they plot to kill him.

Denying the King - Woe to you.

Ways we do it?

- Reject his way - go our own way.
- Lower Jesus to a talisman/good luck charm
- Run after power so we might "gain a kingdom for ourselves"

We like Jerusalem... **Luke 19:41–44** "And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, [42] saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side [44] and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
(ESV)

Don't deny King Jesus.

He will give the vineyard to others.

Relying on Jesus

Tax collectors and sinners surrounded him. The hurting, the broken sought after him. Those that realized there was more to life and found it in him.

All of his preaching invited them to trust him. For salvation, for provision, for the Kingdom.

The King has finally come!

He comes on a donkey, humble leading his people.

Luke 19:36–38 “And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. [37] 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, [38] saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (ESV) Spreading their cloakes, giving of themselves for him. Rejoicing and praising God. Accepting the king as “blessed.”

Where many deny or reject Jesus, when we see him rightly as the King above all Kings, we rely on him and accept him with praise.

“Luke’s account of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem just before his crucifixion reveals Jesus as powerful, as God’s King, and as worthy of praise and honor. In the presence of such divine greatness, the natural response is worship (vv. 38–39).”
GTB

Those in the parade don’t fully know yet what this King will do. But all of it is what we rely on him for.

Romans 1:1b–4 “...the gospel of God, [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, [3] concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,” (ESV)

Romans 1:16–17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (ESV)

Good news of forgiveness, of salvation, being made right with God. And more than that, we rely on him, in faith for a life to live. The way of Jesus - love, justice, mercy, for our neighbors and enemies, because he died for us this King.

“In the gospel, God has given us full and free approval in Christ. We are accepted, reconciled, justified (Rom. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:18; Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:4). We no longer need to seek the approval of people, because we are approved by God—the only approval that matters, and the only approval that satisfies.”

And this gospel does something in us, makes us different.

- The crowds praise God.
- We render to God the things that are his - us!
- A widow will give all she has and she is exalted.
- Believers are kept in the midst of the troubles of life, wars, hardship, persecution... as he tells again of his coming return.

Luke 21:13–19 “ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. [14] Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, [15] for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. [16] You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. [17] You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. [18] But not a hair of your head will perish. [19] By your endurance you will gain your lives.” (ESV)

“Jesus’ *words highlight* the Christian’s experience of living as citizens of two very different kingdoms, the earthly and the heavenly (Phil. 3:20). This reality of our dual citizenship is the source of great conflict internally and externally. From within, we struggle to reorient our lives toward God’s radically different present and coming kingdom, even while living in this world. From without, we encounter persecution and discomfort in this sinful and God-opposed world (2 Tim. 3:12). Jesus does not eliminate this dilemma of our existence, but he does give us a vision of how to approach these matters. All of the world is God’s, but in this overlapping age we must acknowledge that there is an authority and order to society that must be obeyed (Rom. 13:1–7), even while our ultimate allegiance is to God.” GTB

And we only have hope because we rely on Jesus.

He makes plain that life won’t be easy, but under this King it will be good.

You have a choice, deny King Jesus or rely on him.

“The Scriptures promise us that Jesus is coming again. The wicked will be punished and the righteous vindicated. The focus for believers is on the need for to persevere and to guard our own hearts. We must beware lethargy and letting sin reign in our hearts and lives. Many stresses and sufferings and disappointments arise in life. Satan uses these circumstances to sow doubts in our hearts, to make us wonder if the gospel is true. We must pray regularly that we will continue in the faith so that we will stand before the Son of Man on the last day.” TS

“We also see in this passage that Jesus is coming again with power and glory, and when he comes he will bring the kingdom to consummation. The time before his coming will be frightening and chaotic. Unbelievers will be seized with fear and dread, but Jesus encourages believers to be full of hope and optimism. Jesus’ coming will be the day of our final liberation, of release from this world and all of its trouble and suffering. “When we’ve been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.”259” TS In our text Jesus is heading to the cross, to the inauguration of his kingdom. Of forgiveness, righteousness, new life in his resurrection.

The exhortation is the same over the generations.

“Choose this day whom you will serve.” You have a choice, everyday.

Rely on Jesus - for salvation. Sin dealt with, your future resolved.

Go on relying on Jesus - for life. Joining in his work of renewal of others and all things.

Colossians 1:9–20 “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, [10] so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; [12] giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. [13] He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. [17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (ESV)

Shall we rely on this King?