

## I. Intro

- A. Today is Palm Sunday – Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey
  - 1. People wanted a warrior king, but Jesus came to die
  - 2. Disconnect is a hallmark of Christ's entire ministry
    - a) People want one thing – God wants another
- B. Tension still exists today
  - 1. We want one thing – God wants another
  - 2. We have our world, with all its kingdoms – God has another kingdom
  - 3. We have our stories – God has His stories
- C. Today, I invite you to consider something
  - 1. In a way, there is no such thing as your ways, your kingdom, and your stories
  - 2. In a way, there is only God's ways, His kingdom, and His story
- D. Last week, we ended on the parable of the rich fool
  - 1. Jesus warned against – my crops, my barns, my grain, "all mine attitude"
  - 2. The "my" attitude is still present today – but, it is wrong...
    - a) How many minutes have you ever created?
    - b) How trees, flowers, jobs, people, natural laws have you spoke into existence?
  - 3. Answer is none, meaning everything we have is a gift
  - 4. And therefore, we are stewards – NOT OWNERS
- E. This is the perspective we must have to enter the story today
  - 1. Enter God's story. Walk around. Sit and listen.
  - 2. Grasp His ways. Understand things on his terms.
  - 3. Stop slicing up our world into God stuff and my stuff
  - 4. It all belongs to Him and He has expectations on how it ought to run

## II. Text

**A. Luke 12:22-34**

- 1. Jesus connects the "my" attitude of vs 13-21 with anxiety in vs 22-34
  - a) My crops, my barns are now – my life, my food, my body
  - b) "My" attitude is code for ownership – ownership creates anxiety

- (1) A renter isn't anxious about the cost of a new roof
  - (2) A homeowner, however, gets very anxious
  - (3) Unless that homeowner views himself as a steward, and God as owner
2. *This is the world we are invited to walk around in*
    - a) *A world where God feeds the birds of the air and clothes the flowers*
    - b) *A world where God sees you as more valuable than birds and flowers*
    - c) *A world where you own nothing, but treat all things as a gift to steward*
  3. *What is the point?*
    - a) *Your possessions are not your own. Your talents are not your own.*
    - b) *Your body is not your own. Your time is not your own.*
    - c) *And, if this is not your own and belongs to the Master – won't you give account?*

**B. Luke 12:35-48**

1. We are stewards (servants), not owners (masters) – but the master will come
  - a) How will the Master find you when He comes?
    - (1) Dressed for action with a bright lamp, filled with oil?
    - (2) Or, being a glutton and a drunk that abuses the other servants?
  - b) Peter asks for clarification – is this for us (the 12) or the crowds?
2. Jesus answers, yes! – some servants have more responsibility than others
  - a) *Some are shepherds, teachers, and leaders*
  - b) *Some have big responsibilities and some have small*
  - c) *Whatever your responsibility, you will give an account*
    - (1) *And, there is a harsher judgment for the shepherds, teachers, and leaders*
    - (2) *If you are entrusted with much, the master will demand much*
3. *Lets recap*
  - a) *You are not your own. Your possessions are not your own.*
  - b) *Your time is not your own. Your body is not your own.*
  - c) *Other servants are not your own!*

**C. Luke 12:49-59**

1. Jesus has come to set the world on fire!

- a) Fire is going to consume everything, touch every area of life
  - (1) Consume your sense of ownership
  - (2) Consume friends and working relationships
  - (3) Consume families
- b) How can the Prince of Peace [Is 9:6] bring division instead of peace?
  - (1) Remember where we began?
    - (a) We have our ways and He has His ways
    - (b) But, in another sense there is only His ways
  - (2) There is peace for those who submit to Him as prince
  - (3) There is division with those who reject Him as prince
- c) Many times, that division is under the same roof
- 2. *Here is the thing about this division – not “coming soon,” already here*
  - a) *The question is, do we have eyes to see it?*
    - (1) *We can interpret the weather*
    - (2) *We have common sense to settle out of court*
  - b) *But do we have wisdom to discern the current season?*

### III. Conclusion

- A. *As we close, let us consider the current season*
  - 1. *Do we view our lives, our stuff, as something we give as donations to God?*
    - a) *Or, does He own all our life and all our possessions?*
  - 2. *Do we view fellow servants or family as relationships to exploit for personal gain?*
    - a) *Or, does He have ultimate claim on family and friends?*
  - 3. *Do we have any sense of mastery over time or seasons?*
    - a) *Or, does every minute and phase of life belong to Him?*
- B. *Screwtape Letters, Ch 21 – sense of ownership comes from pride AND confusion*
  - 1. *Confusing – my boots, my wife, my father with my God*
  - 2. *The joke is – a human can't utter 'mine' about anything*
  - 3. *In the end, only Jesus and Satan will have any claim of 'mine'*
- C. *I leave you with that thought – we are not owners, we are stewards*