



If You Remain in Him, You Will Be Ready to Receive Him, Now and Then

Ron Ware // Nehemiah 13 & John 15:1-5

1. Palm Sunday

a. Matthew 21:1-11 NASB The Triumphal Entry

21 When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them on immediately.” 4 Now this [a]took place so that what was spoken through [b]the prophet would be fulfilled:

5 “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold your King is coming to you,
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

6 The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, 7 and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their cloaks on them; and He sat on [c]the cloaks. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. 9 Now the crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,

“[d]Hosanna to the Son of David;
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord;
[e]Hosanna in the highest!”

10 When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, “Who is this?” 11 And the crowds were saying, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

b. Zechariah 9:9 NASB

Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion!
Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
He is [a]righteous and endowed with salvation,
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the [b]foal of a donkey.

c. Isaiah 62:11 NASB

Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation is coming;
Behold His reward is with Him, and His compensation before Him."

2. Are you ready to receive Him fully? Here and now, in your everyday life, and when He returns?

3. Jesus is the better Nehemiah, but there is so much to learn from this passionate and courageous leader.

- a. Ourselves
- b. Our walk with Jesus
- c. Our covenant relationship with Him and His Church
- d. Discernment & wisdom
- e. Community
- f. Faithfulness & obedience
- g. Leadership
- h. Disciplines of the Spirit
- i. Readiness/preparedness

4. Historic time of prophecies being fulfilled

- a. Testing, sifting, purifying, repenting, cleansing, calling, surrendering
- b. Revival? Let's be praying boldly for this in our world, country, & community
- c. What is He showing me, saying to me, calling me to?
- d. Am I willing to obey, trust, and follow Him? Let it begin with me!

- e. Share with others and the leadership of the church, what God is showing you through His word, prayer, circumstances, and other people. Perhaps, we can help you to begin taking action.

5. Jesus is coming back for us!

- a. Rapture
- b. Greek word *harpazo* – to seize upon, snatch away, or take to oneself.”
- c. Latin word *rapturo* – which is where we get the word rapture from.
- d. John 14:2-3, Acts 8:39, 2 Corinthians 12:2, and 12:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, & Revelation 12:5.

6. What are the desires of your heart?

- a. Do you want to hear “Well done, my good & faithful servant?”
- b. Are you open to doing whatever it takes to align your will with His will for your life?

7. Nehemiah 13

- a. Verses 1-3. True worship leads to the nation’s obedience. True worship is full devotion, full dedication, full surrender. “Full” may not ever be entirely attainable in this life and will in reality be filled with starts and stops, ups and downs, as the mere humans we are. But, a heart after God in this “full” hearted way, is a heart of true worship and of a true disciple.
- b. Verses 4-31. Courageous leadership must often speak truth in love. We see this as the motivation of Nehemiah’s reforms for Jerusalem, and it was through this that the people chose to change, respond, repent, humble themselves, and obey.

8. Remain/abide in Me. John 15:1-5 NASB

- a. Jesus Is the Vine—Followers Are Branches
15 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He [a]prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already [b]clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in Me, [c]and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit [d]of itself [e]but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him [f]bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

9. True disciples

- a. Oneness and unity with Him & His Body, the Church. Are you one in this way? Are you pursuing oneness and unity? Is it a genuine desire of your heart? Is there anything you could be doing, that might help you to realize this in your life?
- b. In communication with Him through His word, prayer, circumstances, & other people. Are you seeking? Are you asking? Are you listening? Are you obeying?
- c. Fully devoted to becoming His disciple, serving Him, and serving others in His name and with His love.

10. Baptist tradition of *surrendering to ministry*

- a. Let's all see ourselves as ministers, of His peace and reconciliation, of His care and protection, and of His love.
- b. This foundationally is obeying the command to Christ followers and Christ believer to be baptized and to go and make disciples.
- c. It also, however, can lead to even more beyond this, including acts of service, ideas for specific care and service within our church, our community, or our world. What is He perhaps giving you a burden for? Have you shared this with anyone you trust? Please consider doing this, including with your community group facilitator, or another leader in the church. Do all you can to obey and see what God will do. You just might be surprised, and you and others could be blessed beyond what you could have asked or imagined!

RESOURCES

1. <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/top-commentaries-on-every-book-of-the-bible/>
2. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/nehemiah-13/>
3. Safely Home, Randy Alcorn
4. Letters To The Church, Francis Chan