

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 2008 - Mt.25-30; Zech 9:9-10

1. My father and I were very different people
 - a. And especially during my childhood, one of the times you could have seen those differences most clearly was on Saturday mornings.
 - b. For there I would be, sitting watching my cartoons, when my father would come in, and want to change the channel.
 - c. Because on Saturday mornings another station was playing all the old westerns that he had grown up watching.
 - d. I hated westerns. He loved them. That twas the difference.
 - e. One western he loved especially was the Lone Ranger. And it was one I hated the most.
 - i. I thought is was so silly: some young girl in trouble, some farmer about to lose his farm, and in would ride the Lone Ranger on his strong powerful stallion, Silver, come to save the day, restore the farm and bring peace to a troubled land.
 - f. Of course what was I watching? I was watching Superman and Batman and all those other super heroes that I worshiped as a child, and what would they do? When someone was in trouble they would rush in, using their super powers to save the day and bring peace.
 - g. MY dad and I never talked about it; but
 - i. Perhaps my dad and I were not that different after all, because despite our different genres, we were both hoping and yearning for the same thing
 - ii. Someone strong, someone powerful, who would use his power to bring peace to those in need.
 2. Although that desire is the stuff of cartoons and Saturday westerns, it is not uncommon, nor is it new. For
 3. The people in the prophet Zechariah's day were yearning for someone to save them from the advancing armies of the nations around them.
 - a. They did not know who it would be, but they knew what kind of person it would be. It would be a strong king, a regular lone ranger type, riding a powerful horse, leading his armies to do battle against their enemies, so that peace could reign supreme
 4. The people in Jesus day were yearning as well for someone to save them from the repression of Rome.
 - a. In fact they were yearning for the same strong king that the people in Zechariah's day had yearned for, the king who despite Zechariah's promise, had failed to come.
 5. And who are we fooling? We year for it too.
 - a. For Since September 11 2001 our country has dedicated itself to stopping terrorism.
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- b. and we have done it in just the way the people in Zechariah's day would have done

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- it; by trusting in the power of our leaders, especially our president, to control the world situation and restore peace.
6. And yet the great king the people in Zechariah's day were expecting did not come, the holy and righteous messiah that the people in Jesus day never showed.
 7. One group in Jesus' day knew however, why this was so.
 - i. They said that this great king, the chosen Messiah had not come, not because God did not want to send him, but because the people of Israel were not ready to receive him.
 - ii. They were not righteous enough. They had not purified themselves enough through the good works of following the commandments.
 - b. This group said that in order to get ready for the coming of the king, they had to separate themselves from this world and be as holy as the priests had to be, as holy as the temple had to be.
 - c. This group was called the separate ones, or as we know them in English, the pharisees.
8. But then Zechariah never promised them that he would. Quite the opposite.
- a. For the king that Zechariah had promised was not a great and powerful warrior riding in on a mighty stallion.
 - b. He was meek and humble person, riding in not on a horse, but on a donkey.
 - c. Yet he would rid Jerusalem of all the weapons of war they had hoped one day their king would command,
 - d. Because this king's one weapon, his *only* weapon would be his justice
9. Perhaps this is why Jesus spoke of himself as meek and humble of heart;
10. why he spoke of easing the burden of the yoke of all the laws his people were struggling to follow after the example of the pharisees
11. and why the pharisees themselves did not recognize him for who he claimed to be,
- a. not even when he rode into Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday in conscious effort to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah.
12. Because they were looking for a king after their own image; who would impose peace through power;
13. Instead of a king after God's own image, who would propose peace through justice.
- a. God's justice which accor