



(Affiliated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

Memorial Church Anglican – Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066

SERMON FOR ADVENT SUNDAY (28.11.2010)

— During the late 18th. century, the village women of the Krishna region of Andhra Pradesh composed a hymn of Mary the mother of Jesus. They sang, Mary got up early in the morning and took her bath using silver and golden pots, put on her best sari, did up her hair using golden bands and went to the temple to pray. God loved her for this, and put His word in a cradle (for the redemption of mankind) – that cradle was her womb, and His word did not destroy her womb. This word then became Emmanuel for all of us. Now we are God’s children because we believe in what Jesus did for our redemption on the cross.

This is the same Jesus whom these women sang about before He was put on the cross. This morning we read in the Gospel portion, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on an ass, a colt of an ass, as Israel’s king. The ass is the royal animal for Jewish monarchs – 1 Kings 2:23. As Jesus enters Jerusalem the people in anguish (due to the Roman colonial rule) spread cut branches and their garments on the road in subjection, and cried out to Jesus – Hossana - meaning ‘save us’. Jesus has no political agenda but rather He goes into the Temple and violently cleanses it in contrast of what He did at the onset of His ministry in Jn. 2:13—25 where he cleanses it with less violence.

The cleansing is done twice because the religious business that was conducted by the Temple authorities was held in the court of the Gentiles. This portion of the Temple was set aside to give the Gentiles an opportunity to enter the Temple and learn from Israel about the true God. The presence of this religious market in this portion of the Temple prevented the mission of God to take place.

As Jesus rides into Jerusalem the prophecy Zach. 9:9 is fulfilled – ‘Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, sitting on an ass, a colt, the foal of an ass’. As He stands in the cleansed Temple, and He says that My house is a house of prayer, the word as recorded in Is. 56:7 is fulfilled. Jesus thus quotes it, and the words recorded in the long sermon of Jer. 7:11.....’but ye have made it a den of thieves’ is also fulfilled.

On this Advent Sunday may we who await the second coming of Jesus, continue to allow our lives to be the cradle for God’s word to dwell in us richly. So that our lives will be filled with the glory of God as He protects us with a wall of fire, Zach. 2:5 ‘so that at the last day when Jesus comes again in glorious majesty to judge the quick and the dead’, He will find us cleansed and given unto prayer and praise – that we may rise to life immortal to live with the Lord God Almighty in the light of the Glory of God, Rev.21:22,23.
