

Palm Sunday: Jesus Has A Question For You.

*"Road to the Resurrection" Part #1
Noah Largent 4/6/16*



Matthew 21:1-11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

This event is often called, "The Triumphal Entry". It is one of the rare occasions in the Bible where all 4 books about the life of Jesus recount the same event. This event opens the week that culminates with Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection three days later.

1. Why was the crowd so large?

This was the annual celebration of Passover. A tradition dating back to Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Jerusalem would overflow with families that came to celebrate. They camped out all around the city and the nearby towns would overflow too. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead. Speculation was high that Jesus might be the Savior the prophets had predicted would come and bring salvation to them.

2. What is the significance of the song they were singing?

They were quoting Psalm 118:25&26 and Zechariah 9:9. The implications were that many did believe that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised to send. John 12:16 reflects that the disciples were swept up in the excitement of the moment and it would not be until after Jesus had been resurrected that they would come to fully appreciate the prophecies fulfilled in this event.

3. Why are the people laying down palms branches and cloaks?

This was recognition of Jesus right to rule. Palm branches were used as a tribute, welcoming a hero home. The laying down of cloaks was a sign of submission, literally a picture of putting oneself under another's feet.

4. Why does Jesus ride in on a baby donkey?

An envoy sent in peace to a foreign county coming would arrive on a donkey. In contrast arriving on a horse would signify the threat of war. Jesus triumph over sin and death comes through submission and humility.

Jesus was orchestrating events to ask the people (and us) a question: "Will you RECEIVE me or REJECT me?"

Jesus came as Savior *and* Lord. We can't access the "Savior" part and reject the "Lord" part.

"You are not your own, you are bought with a price," (1Cor. 19-20). This is the beginning of true life: To recognize that fact, to surrender your claim to yourself, to give up your right to run your own affairs, and to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, to do what he says, and to stop what he says to stop. -Ray Stedman

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