

“Behold, Thy King!”

Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

One third of the Gospel accounts are devoted to the final days of Christ’s earthly ministry. [*Baker’s Harmony of the Gospels*, takes 108 pages to cover the first 33½ years of Christ’s ministry. From Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem to His ascension back to heaven takes 69 pages.]

The final week of Christ’s life on earth (called the “Passion Week” or “Holy Week”) is bracketed by two Sundays: On the first Sunday we have Christ’s triumphal entrance into Jerusalem (called Palm Sunday). The following Sunday is Christ’s triumphant resurrection from the dead. Here are the main events in order:

1. Christ enters Jerusalem to present Himself as King.
2. Cleanses the Temple (2nd time) and denounces the Pharisees.
3. Christ’s Olivet Discourse (Mt. 24-25).
4. Jesus observes the Passover with His disciples (Mt. 26:17-25)
5. Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-30).
6. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt. 26:31-46)
7. Christ’s betrayal and arrest.
8. Falsely accused at the house of Caiaphas.
9. Brought before Pilate and Herod.
10. Crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

In this message we will take a look at Christ entering Jerusalem to present Himself to Israel as their King.

Christ’s Triumphal Entry parallels His second coming (Rev. 19:11-12).

1. His first coming He rode in on back of a lowly donkey— His second coming He rides a white horse.
2. His first entry lead to His crucifixion—His second coming will end in His coronation.
3. He received a crown of thorns His first coming— He wears crowns of gold in His second coming



All four Gospel writers record this event with a different emphasis:

- Matthew (21:4-11) emphasizes the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9.
- Mark (11:1-11) emphasizes the colt Jesus would ride in on.
- Luke (19:29-44) emphasizes the praising of the people.
- John (12:12-19) give the details of the palm branches.

When I toured the Holy Land about 27 years ago, Brother Bill Tate, tour guide, lead us down the exact route Christ took (Mt. Olives; down to the Garden of Gethsemane; across the Kidron Valley, up to the Eastern Gate).

I. The PREPARATION for His entrance (Luke 19:29-35).

A. The COMMAND (v. 30). It was a strange command.

- The donkey did not belong to them.
- If anyone asked what they were doing, they were to say, “Jesus needs it.”
- God may ask you to do a strange thing.

I heard of a seminary student preparing for the ministry in Texas. He was driving through a southern Texas town when his car had mechanical trouble and broke down. It stopped in front of a house. God seemed to impress on his heart to go to this house and ask for some help. He knocked on the door, but no one answered. He turned to go back to his car when God said, “Go to the back door.” He went to the back of the house and could hear several people talking in the house. He knocked on the back door, and an elderly woman came to the door. She asked, “Can I help you?” He told her he was a Baptist preacher preparing for the ministry and his car had broke down in front of her house. She invited him inside where there were about two dozen people. They were having a prayer meeting asking God to send them a preacher to be their pastor and start a church! To make a long story short, he became their pastor and the church is still there today!

B. The COMPLIANCE (v. 32).

1. Unnamed—We don’t know who they were. If you will serve the Lord, you must be willing to serve without attention, or

who gets the credit. When you remember WHO you are serving, nothing else matters!

2. There was no asking, “Why?” or, “How long will it take?” It doesn’t matter where you’re asked to go or what you’re asked to do. To just report for duty and let Him tell you what He wants done.
 3. You must “GO” to FIND... You must LOOSE to lead.
- C. The CONFIRMATION (v. 32). Everything Jesus said was confirmed.
1. What God says, will come to pass.
 2. Jesus prepared the disciples with the answer and prepared the colt’s owners to accept their answer. When God sends us, He will prepare us for the situation and the situation for us.

II. The PROPHECY of His entrance (Mt. 21:4-5 cf. Zech 9:9).

➡ Zechariah 9:9 records the DETAILS of Christ’s entry.

- A. The MAJESTY of the King
1. Just— When Jesus comes, He will set the world right.
 2. Lowly— He came the first time meek and lowly. When He comes again, He will come as Conquerer.
- B. The MASTERY of the King.
1. As King He CLAIMED the colt (Mt. 21:2-3).
 2. As King He CONTROLLED the colt.
 - An unbroken colt. Normally takes 8 wks to break a colt.
 - This colt was smart enough to recognize it’s Creator. It had more sense than some humans to consider life’s greatest privilege is to serve the Lord.
- C. The MINISTRY of the King— “...*having salvation...*”
- ➡ At His birth He was named “Jesus”—“*for he shall save his people from their sins.*” (Mt. 1:21).
- ➡ This colt pictures the salvation of a lost man:
1. It had to be REDEEMED.

- The colt was an unclean animal. The Law stated that the firstborn donkey had to be put to death (Ex. 13:13).
 - However, the Law also gave provision for a lamb to be sacrificed in its place, thereby redeeming the colt (Ex. 34:20).
 - Like the unclean colt, we too were condemned by the law, but the Lamb of God took our place and died so that we might go free.
2. It had to be **RELEASED**. It was tied (Lk. 19:30). Proverbs 5:22 says an unsaved man is *“holden with the cords of his sins.”* Jesus could never use it until it was set free.
 - Mark 11:4 says the colt was *“tied by THE DOOR... in a place where TWO WAYS met.”* Jesus is *“the Door”* and there are only TWO WAYS— The broad way that leads to destruction and the straight way that leads to life!
 3. It needed to be **RULED**. It was a colt *“whereon yet never man sat”* (Lk 19:30). (Job 11:12 says, *“...man be born like a wild ass’s colt.”* Full of self-will / stubborn. We are saved to do God’s will. The Lord did not set the colt free to serve itself— He set it free to serve Him.
 - When you got saved, the Lord was to take the reins of your life and be in control.
 4. It was **RECLOTHED** (Lk. 19:35 cf. Isa. 61:10).
 5. It was **RIDEN** (Lk 19:35). The only duty of that colt was to lift up the Savior. People did not look to see the colt, but to see Jesus upon the colt.

III. The PRAISE at His entrance (Luke 19:36-38).

➡ The people are shouting. Notice what they shouted.

A. *“Hosanna!”*— *“Hosanna”* means “Save now” (Ps. 118:25-26)—that is, “save us from the tyranny of Rome like Moses saved us from the Egyptians.”

1. Jesus did not come to smash Rome—Rome would smash Him.

2. Jesus gathered no troops. He lead no revolt against Rome. He didn't do what they expected.

B. *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

- A quotation from Psalm 118, a Messianic Psalm. By shouting these words, the people identified Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- However, their cheers turned to jeers a few days later (Luke 23:21). How fickle people are.

It's easy to praise the Lord on Sunday's in church. We shout praises loud enough to make a Pharisee complain. But it's in between Sunday's that we sometimes don't do as well. How loud are your "hosannas" between Sundays?

IV. **The PALMS at His entrance** (John 12:12-13).

A. Symbol of CELEBRATION.

1. At the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:40).
2. In Revelation 7:9 a great multitude wearing white robes in heaven wave palms in their hands and cry with a loud voice, *"Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."*

- B. Symbol of CONQUERING. It was the welcome given to kings and conquerors. When the Jews waved the palm branches as Jesus rode by, they were saying, "This is the man and this is the day!"

V. **The PROTEST at His entrance** (Luke 19:39-40).

- ➡ "Everyone enjoys a parade... that is, unless you're a Pharisee."
- ➡ When the Pharisees urged Christ to rebuke his disciples. Jesus said, *"If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."*—Luke 19:39-40

A. Three words sum up the Pharisees reaction:

1. **Frightened** because they do not know what Jesus is up to.
2. **Frustrated** because of the multitude who are following Him.

3. **Furious** because they now see Him as an enemy of their interests, an enemy who must be eliminated.
- B. It was DECISION TIME—
1. Only two choices: Receive their King or Reject Him.
 2. No neutral ground. No straddling the fence. Not to decide is to decide. To say “not now” is really to say “no.”
 3. It’s the Crown or the Cross! (Jesus was going to die either way.)

SUMMATION: Palm Sunday reminds us that each of us must sooner or later make up our minds about Jesus Christ.

It’s not enough to be interested in Jesus. Millions of people who are interested in Him but have no relationship with Him. The people of the first Palm Sunday were interested. The whole city was stirred to the point of discussion... but not the point of action. Mere interest will never save you. The gospel saves only those who believe ... not those who talk about believing.

Will you swing wide the door of your heart and welcome Him in your