

- **SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023.**
- **PALM SUNDAY**
- **CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO  
JERUSALEM**
- **MATTHEW 21:1-11 NIV.**

- Today we observe and celebrate a special day on our Christian calendar known as 'Palm Sunday'. Christians across the world celebrate this day annually observed on a Sunday before Easter.

This celebration commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. (*Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–44, and John 12:12–19*).

According to Matthew 20:18-20, Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing that He would be tried, crucified, and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin.

In John chapter 11, we see the plot to kill Jesus after raising Lazarus back to life. John 12 gives us an overview of some of the events that took place prior to this triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In Chapter 12:9-13, John tells us that,

“a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” (*John 12:9-13 NIV*).

**Let us continue from Matthew 21:1-11.**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.



3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” 11 And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

# **Why was this triumphal entry significant?**

1) The first thing we see in this story is that Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem to make public His claim to be their Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy.

Matthew in his gospel declares that;

a) The King coming on the foal of a donkey was an exact fulfillment of *Zechariah 9:9*, which says; *“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

b) Jesus fulfilled more than 300 individual prophecies that related to the Messiah. The probability of one man fulfilling more than 300 prophecies must be a number beyond comprehension for anyone. One of those Prophecies was Messiah to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9); This was fulfilled in *(Luke 35-37, Matt. 21:6-11., Mark 11:9–10, John 12:13–15)*

## 2) His Triumphant entry was to signify His Humility.

a) His humility was marked by the response from the crowd, **verse 9**, *And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”*

Everything thing Jesus did, gave credit to His Father. As mentioned last week, prayer changes our view about God, when you understand that He provides, or heals or cares for you, your approach to prayer changes.



**b) The second thing about his humility was the means to enter Jerusalem, (a donkey).** In some major Churches today, Pastors are flying their own private jets. Many times, when horses are mentioned in the Bible they portray pride, Power, and wealth, other, times horses are mentioned in relation to kings and war, while donkeys are mentioned in relation to common people.

**3) His triumphal entry signified servanthood.**

a) This was shown by his attitude.

I am not sure what donkeys represent in your culture, in many cultures donkeys were used for agriculture and trade. Donkeys were portrayed in Biblical works as symbols of not just humility, but of service, suffering, peace, etc.

- In many parts of Africa, donkeys were used for serving people, either carrying them or luggage and sometimes ploughing the farm.
- Jesus wanted to identify with needy people, hungry people, isolated people, people that were oppressed by the Roman empire.

## **Conclusion:**

Many people hailed and praised Jesus as the “King who comes in the name of the Lord” as He rode to the temple, where He taught the people, healed them, and drove out the moneychangers and merchants who had made His Father’s house a “den of robbers”

*(Mark 11:17)*

Unfortunately, the praise that was poured on Jesus by most of these people was not because they recognized Him as their Savior from sin. They welcomed Him out of their desire for a messianic deliverer, someone who would lead them in a revolt against Rome.

- There were many who, though they did not believe in Christ as Savior, nevertheless hoped that perhaps He would be to them a great temporal deliverer. These are the ones who hailed Him as King with their many hosannas, recognizing Him as the Son of David who came in the name of the Lord.

However, when He failed their expectations, when He refused to lead them in a massive revolt against the Roman oppressors, the crowds quickly turned on Him. Within just a few days, their hosannas would change to cries of “Crucify Him!” (Luke 23:20-21).

Those who hailed Him as a hero would soon reject and abandon Him.

- Do you feel like your expectations have been failed? When we don't see Christ through his mission, we see him through our own expectations.