

“THE KING IS COMING”

John 12:9-19

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INTRODUCTION

Mistakenly, many believe that He is going to rule on an earthly throne and drive out the Roman armies; therefore, the common people stir themselves into a frenzy of religious/political enthusiasm, while the Pharisees (v. 19) and Chief priests (10-11) are beside themselves with jealousy and consternation. They are afraid of losing their influence—many were leaving them and were believing in Jesus (v. 11; usually the expression for genuine faith in Christ). They are afraid that their nation is in a precarious situation if the Romans get wind of the rampant enthusiasm of the masses. The chief priests are so upset that they are even determined to kill Lazarus (v. 10). The Pharisees realize that their earlier indecision was ineffective, and that Caiaphas’ plan was the best after all (v. 19). If they do not act soon, truly “the whole world” will become Jesus’ disciples! (Is this another unintentional prophecy by them?)

The people who had been standing around in Jerusalem inquiring about Jesus’ intentions in relation to the feast of Passover now get word that Jesus has arrived in Bethany. Many go over to Bethany the evening of the banquet made in Jesus’ honor (v. 9); others come out to meet Him the next day when they hear that He is on His way into Jerusalem (12, 18).

The Day Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem was the day that Jewish families selected and set aside their Passover lambs (Nisan 10) for use on the day of Passover (Nisan 14). Jesus entered Jerusalem late on a Sunday; His crucifixion took place on a Friday. He presented Himself as their Passover lamb who would deliver them from their sins and their spiritual bondage.

Even Jesus’ true disciples were somewhat confused about what was happening during His “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem; not until after Jesus’ glorification into Heaven and upon the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them did they fully comprehend all that had happened at this time—their actions and the accurate fulfillment of Scripture (16).

Today we can look back and can understand what was happening on that first **Palm Sunday**. Many who apparently received Him with enthusiasm did not truly receive Him in their hearts. Most would reject Him. In the earlier words of John in this gospel:

He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God,

Even to them that believe on His name.

Your King has come. Have you received Him?

Do not fear; the King of Peace has come. Do you know His peace?

I. DETAILS OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (Cf. Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19:29-34)

{This is a suggested scenario.}

A. Departure from Bethany

B. Mission to obtain the donkey—at Bethphage; 2 donkeys, mother and colt; everything as Jesus outlined.

C. Garments spread upon both animals; Jesus rides only the colt—never been ridden

- before! Prophecy in Zech. 9:9 fulfilled.
- D. Garments spread in the road; branches cut and laid down.
 - E. People stream out of Jerusalem and meet the caravan with palm branches of palm trees.
 - F. The groups meet, enthusiasm builds—some preceding, some following.
 - G. Witnesses of Lazarus’s *call out of the tomb* and of his *raising out from among the dead* continually testify of what they have seen (v. 17); this testimony stirs up even more enthusiasm!
 - H. Some Pharisees demand that Jesus stop such adoration—Jesus says that if they stop, the stones will cry out! (Lk. 19:39-40)
 - I. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Lk. 19:41-44).
 - J. Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem stirs the entire city (Mt. 21:10-11)
 - K. He returns to Bethany overnight (Mk. 11:11)
 - L. He casts out the moneychangers (Mt. & Mk.)
 - M. The children praise Him—“Out of the mouths of babes”.
 - N. Jesus heals the blind and the lame in the temple (Mt. 21:14; Mk. 11:11).
 - O. Pharisees frustrated—“the whole world goes after Him.” (v. 19)
 - P. The disciples try to reconcile these things in their minds (v. 16)

II. LESSONS OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

- A. Jesus Voluntarily lays down His life; He forces the issue with the Jewish leaders.
- B. He forces the leaders to change their timetable—not during the feast—in order to fulfill the Father’s timetable and His. He must die during the Passover.
- C. Jesus declares Himself to be the Messiah (Zech. 9:9); He does not deny nor reject the cries of the multitudes.
- D. Jesus manifests the nature of His inaugural trip to earth by riding a donkey into Jerusalem. (He will come back again on a white horse!)

CONCLUSION

A few days later the exalted triumph of these crowds would become a hushed silence as they observed their King hanging on a rugged cross. As He hung there He cried, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Jesus’ opponents demanded that those praising Jesus—adults and children—be silent. But, Jesus encouraged both, and said that if His followers were silent, then the rocks would have to cry out His praises.

His enemies had their way at the cross, but one day Jesus will return to defeat and destroy all opposition to His rule. After reigning over the earth for 1, 000 years, He will judge all men by their works. In that day, as Paul says, “every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

Oh what a day that will be!

ARE YOU READY? HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO HIM NOW?