

“The Triumphal Entry Of Jesus Christ”

John 12:12-19

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Teaching Aim: To explore the circumstances surrounding “*The Triumphal Entry*” of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. To understand His coming on a colt of a donkey demonstrated that He had come to make peace between God and man. To recognize, many of the people shouting “*Hosanna*” (“*Save us Lord we pray*”) on Palm Sunday would join the Pharisees in shouting “*Crucify Him*” a few days later. Like so many people today, they came to Jesus for all the wrong reasons.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: The Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem (John 12:12-13)

1. “*The next day*” was the day following the anointing of Jesus by Mary in Bethany (**vs. 12**). According to Jesus, what made that event so important? (See **John 12:7**) Do you think the disciples understood the significance of the moment? How big of a crowd was in Jerusalem as Jesus descended down from the Mount of Olives? Note: Josephus estimated 2.5 million people were in Jerusalem for the Passover festivals in A.D. 64 and 65.

2. According to **verse 13**, what item did the people greet Jesus with? What was the significance of this item to the Jews? (See Commentaries)

3. It is significant that all four gospels covered both the anointing of Jesus by Mary and also His triumphal entry into Jerusalem the following day. What instruction did Jesus give to two of His disciples as they drew near Bethphage and Bethany? (See **Luke 19:29-30**) How far was Bethany from Jerusalem? According to **Matthew 21:1-2**, how many animals were involved? Do you think the disciples might have wondered about this instruction from Jesus? Why? (See **Matt. 21:3**) What are some possible solutions to their concerns?

4. The word “*Hosanna*” means, “*Save us Lord we pray!*” How does **Psa. 118:25-26a** relate to **John 12:13**? How many years before the triumphal entry of Christ had the cries of the people been prophesied? Why is Bible prophecy important to every Christian?

Part II: Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey (John 12:14-16)

1. Jesus officially put the nation of Israel on notice that it's Messiah had arrived in **verses 14 & 15**. Jesus demonstrated that He was the fulfillment of **Zech. 9:9**. What can we learn about Jesus from this Old Testament prophecy?
2. Riding on the back of a colt symbolized that Jesus had come to bring peace between God and man. How will the Second Coming of Christ be different from His first advent? (See **Rev. 19:11-16**)
3. A major change took place in the ministry of Jesus at this point. Up until this time in His ministry, Jesus told people, *"Don't tell anyone!"* But now Jesus goes public and there was no turning back. Had any other kings in the Old Testament been identified by riding on a donkey? (See **1 Kings 1:33-34**) Why is it significant that David and Solomon were both involved in this event? (See **2 Sam. 7:12-14a**) What is the name of this covenant? (See Commentaries) Who is the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant? When?
4. How did the crowd react as Jesus descended down the Mount of Olives? (See **Matt. 21:8**) Many people believe the palm branches may have been a sign of resistance, specifically against the Romans. Palm branches were used by the Maccabees as a symbol of resistance against Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The name Epiphanes meant: *"God Manifest."* Following the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus and his forces, the writer of 1 Maccabees 13:51-52a said, *"On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the year one hundred and seventy-one, the Jews entered the citadel with shouts of jubilation, waving of palm branches, the music of harps and cymbals and lyres, and the singing of hymns and canticles, because a great enemy of Israel had been destroyed. Simon decreed that this day should be celebrated every year with rejoicing."* How does the response in 1 Maccabees 13:51-52a relate to that of the people at the triumphal entry of Christ?
5. Jewish coins from the Maccabean era were decorated with palm branches. Why? Is it possible that this is why the Jewish religious leaders shouted at Jesus to tell the crowd to *"Shut up?"* (See **Luke 19:39-40**) How did Jesus respond? Note: This was the moment all of history had been pointing towards, nothing would stop it from happening now.

6. John MacArthur writes, *“Blessed is He. This is an exact quotation from **Psalm 118:26**. This along with the messianic title ‘Son of David,’ make it clear that the crowd was acknowledging Christ’s messianic claim. The date of this entry was Sunday, the 9th of Nisan, A.D. 30, exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes mentioned in **Dan. 9:24-26**.”* (69 weeks of years) Jesus was right on His Father’s timetable, not the Pharisees. When will the final week of years in Daniel’s prophecy be fulfilled?

7. Jesus did not come to deliver His people from the Romans, He came to deliver them from the bondage of sin and death! What can we learn about the ministry of Jesus from the following Bible verses? (See **Rom 3:23, 6:23; 5:8-9**)

8. Luke informed us that Jesus wept as He approached the city of Jerusalem. Why? (See **Luke 19:43-44**) When was this prophecy fulfilled? (See Commentaries) How much of the ancient Jewish temple remains today? When will this temple be rebuilt and the sacrificial system be restored for the Jews? (See **Ezek. 40-48**)

9. Did the disciples of Jesus understand what was happening on that incredible day (**vs. 16**)? Why? Only after the crucifixion and coming of the Holy Spirit were the eyes of the disciples opened. Did it take the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see spiritual things? (See **Eph. 2:1-5; Col. 2:13-14**)

Part III: The more the Pharisees tried to silence Jesus, the more people came (John 12:17-19)

1. Which people were bearing witness to Jesus (**vs. 17**)? Gaged on the crowd that greeted Jesus, had the testimony of the witnesses been effective? Note: The news of Lazarus being raised from the dead was spreading throughout Jerusalem and the people there for the Passover festival were flocking to see Jesus (**vs. 18**)! Did they come to Jesus for the right reasons or for the wrong? What brought many of the people?

2. When Jesus came into the city, the entire city was moved (**vs. 18**). What did people ask? Have you ever experienced an earthquake? What did it feel like and how did it affect you? This visit from Jesus would change everything, **Matt. 21:10** tells us that many people thought Jesus was a prophet. Jesus was much more than a prophet, but most people didn't realize who He really was. Today many people still don't believe in the Biblical Jesus. Why?

3. How did the Pharisees react to the crowd's response at Jesus (**vs. 19**)? Why did the Pharisees prefer not to kill Jesus during the Passover festival? (See **Mark 14:1-2**) Did Jesus put more pressure on the religious leaders to act by entering Jerusalem the way He did? If so, how?

4. What can we learn from the "SCC Statement of Faith" about the Person and work of Jesus? SCC Statement of Faith: We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God (**John 1:1**) and fully man (**Phil. 2:6-8**). We believe that He is one in essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit (**Deut. 6:4**), but different in role. We believe in the virgin birth of Christ (**Luke 1:34-37**), His sinless life (**2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5**), His substitutional death on the cross for our sins (**Eph. 2:16**), His burial and resurrection on the third day (**Matt. 28:5,6**). We believe that Christ ascended into heaven (**Acts 1:9-11**) and sits at the right hand of God the Father (**Acts 2:32,33**) in the position of power and authority, from where He shall come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe Christ's death on the cross atoned for our sin (**Rom. 3:25**) and satisfied the demands of a righteous and holy God. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God (**John 1:29**), the Lion of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**), the Messiah of Israel (**Is. 53; Ps. 2**) the Mediator between God and man (**1 Tim. 2:5**). He is the Prophet (**Acts 3:22**), Priest (**Heb. 4:14-16**), and King (**John 1:49**); the Head of the church (**Col. 1:18**), the Savior (**2 Tim. 1:10**) and Redeemer of His people (**Titus 2:14**). He is our Reconciler with God (**Col. 1:19-20**) the Heir of all things (**Heb. 1:1,2**), the Judge of all the world (**2 Tim. 4:1**); and the exact representation of God the Father (**Col. 2:9**). We believe that Jesus Christ will come again to set up His kingdom (**Rev. 22:20**). All the Bible points to Christ and our need for Him. History is "His story." **Acts 4:12** says: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6 NKJV**)

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before His crucifixion and subsequent resurrection.
- Jesus (as the Messiah of the Jews) entered Jerusalem at the precise moment that Daniel had prophesied in **Daniel chapter 9**.
- Even the disciples of Jesus didn't understand the significance of what had happened until after the resurrection.
- People flocked to Jesus for all the wrong reasons; a week later, many of those same people would be shouting "*Crucify Him!*"
- Speaking in hyperbolic language, the Pharisees lamented, "*The world has gone after Him!*"
- Jesus came to make peace between God and man, He would accomplish this through His death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension into heaven forty days later.