

Easter 2020

Palm Sunday

Who is this Champion #humbleKing

April 12, 2020

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The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.

³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

⁵ "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.' "

⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "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 had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

(Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19)

Main Points

The Champion is Revealed!

It authenticates the prophecies of the Old Testament about Christ – the proof of His identity (Zechariah 9:9 / Psalms 118:26)

1. They called Jesus "King" – at a time when there were no monarchs in Israel
2. Jesus receives the worship of a Messiah for the first time in His ministry – only God would have accepted worship.

Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. (NKJV)

Psalms 118:25-26

Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. (NKJV)

He is a Humble Champion

- **It demonstrates the heart and character of God - humility**
 - Jesus came as the lamb led to the slaughter - His whole life was about His humility and meekness:
 - Born in a manger – no room
 - Raised in poverty
 - No place to lay His head
 - Ministered to the marginalized
 - Riding in on a donkey
 - Suffered the death of a criminal
 - No place of His own to be buried.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”

— Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?*

Every Champion has a Greeting: “Hosanna” is the Greeting fit for a Champion

- The multitudes shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” This quotation from (Psalms 118:25-26) obviously applies to the Messiah's advent.
- Hosanna originally meant “save now”; perhaps the people meant, “Save us from our Roman oppressors.” Later the term became an exclamation of praise.

Hosanna: a Hebrew prayer meaning, “save now” or “save we beseech you”

Matthew 21:9

"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Mark 11:9-10

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' ¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

John 12:13

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

- The phrases, “Son of David” and, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”:
 - Both clearly indicate that Jesus was being recognized as the Messiah
 - He is the Blessed One who comes by Jehovah's authority to do His will.

- Mark's account records, as part of the crowd's shouts, the phrase, "Blessed is the kingdom of our Father David that comes in the name of the Lord" (Mark 11:10):
 - This indicates that the people thought the Kingdom was about to be set up with Christ sitting on the throne of David.
 - In shouting, "Hosanna in the highest," the crowd was calling on the heavens to join the earth in praising the Messiah, and perhaps calling on Him to save from the highest heavens.
- For the first time in His three-year ministry, Christ allows people to worship Him and exalt Him as Messiah - all other times He told people not to reveal who He was and what He had done for them.

It forced people to respond to Him - Three types of people:

The disciples: spontaneous combustion - burst into praise and worship as they considered the great things God had done and what they had seen - thanksgiving came forth from their hearts - we don't want to fall into a, "what have you done for us lately" attitude

The crowd/the masses: they are curious and get caught up in the moment but when their expectations are not met they quickly become **indifferent** and lose interest - they are fickle, while the money changers scramble for their wealth and blind and the lame come to Christ

The religious: they become **indignant and irritated** with Christ and His ways.

Conclusion

Psalms 92:12-13

¹² The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³ Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. (NKJV)