



Palm Sunday



“The Triumphal Entry Matt. 21:1-11”

03/24/24

I. Setting the scene...

- a. The people were MORE than ready for a new King, one that would rescue them from their captivity and restore God’s kingdom on earth, as God’s chosen people. They had experienced some 400 years of _____, where there had been no prophet, no scripture written, multiple captivities, restoration of Israel to their land, but nothing, per se’, directly from God.
- b. With Jesus arriving on the scene, they had seen many miracles happen by His hand, so they knew he was blessed by God, and was the obvious _____ to be king or their idea of a Messiah (*still looking for Him to this day*). They were ready for a conquering king.
- c. The time had finally arrived for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem to make _____ His claim to be their one, true Messiah & King.
- d. The Triumphal Entry would begin Jesus’s _____ week (Passion week) before His arrest, death, burial and resurrection.

II. Location: “Up to Jerusalem”- The road from Jericho to Jerusalem is a steep ascent, rising some 3,300 feet in about 17 miles (which began in **Luke 9:51-56**).

- a. **Bathpage & Bethany** were villages on or near the Mount of Olives. **Bethany**, approx 2 miles outside of Jerusalem, was a frequent spot for Jesus to stay, as He had friends (Mary, Martha, Lazarus); where Lazerus was raised from the dead; where Mary anointed Jesus’ feet; the place of Jesus’s final ascension back to heaven, i.e. where Jesus last _____ on earth.
- b. **Jerusalem**- Jesus _____ into Jerusalem at the start or Passover, which meant it would have been full of people (anywhere from 250k-500k), giving maximum exposure to His entry, His mission, His arrest and crucifixion.

III. Spiritual Significance:

- a. Jesus begins by securing the colt, which fulfilled prophecy (**Zech 9:9**). The colt’s mother was brought along, possibly to bring security to the young colt.

- b. **The use of the colt**, itself, sent a message as to what Jesus’s purpose was, i.e. what _____ of King He was claiming to be.
 - i. A King would only use a donkey when entering a city in _____, or to communicate peaceful intentions.
 - ii. In contrast, a conquering king would always enter a city on a _____, representing a military conquest
 - iii. Jesus was definitely entering as self-proclaimed King, but He was not coming as the King they expected; indeed not the _____ power they thought they needed.
 - iv. Since a colt clearly symbolizes **Peace**, Jesus, by this very method of entry, sends the message to all watching that He is here to bring peace (between God & Man). (**Matt. 10:34-36; Eph.2:14-18**)
 - v. The colt symbolized _____. These type of animals were used to carry the burdens of people- i.e. Jesus came to serve and bear the burdens of many (**Is.53:4**)
 - vi. Colt also signified **Sacredness**, because it had “never been _____” before (**Deut. 21:3; 1 Sam. 6:7**). This is Jesus giving testament to the sacredness of this event.

c. The People Cheer & Celebrate Jesus’ Arrival!

- i. They had seen miracle after miracle, so they knew Jesus could do anything, so in their quest to re-establish God’s kingdom on earth, they were convinced their _____ was finally here.
- ii. Yet they failed to see what he was really here for. They, like Israel at Mt. Sinai fashioning a Golden-Calf god of their own liking; conceived and _____ what they wanted their Jesus to be, as do many today:
 1. A once in a while _____ for emergencies
 2. A universally accepting God, accepting _____ into heaven no matter their beliefs, never giving judgment
 3. A moral _____ and all-around nice guy, but definitely not fully God.
 4. The guy that my spouse, kids or parents follow
 5. Just one of the _____ people God uses to get us to heaven, right?
 6. A political leader that will help me _____ the government
- iii. **Who do you say that I am??** Take a lesson from Peter’s Confession- **Matt. 16:13-17**