

Daily Bible Study

“Palm Sunday”

Matthew 21:1-11

April 10-16, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – This week we are going to take a look at several passages of Scripture dealing with the event we call "The Triumphal Entry". This was the time that Jesus Christ came into Jerusalem for the express purpose of giving His life as a sacrifice. We will be looking at several details in this event that took place on what we now refer to as “Palm Sunday”. This is one of the few incidents of Jesus' life that can be found in all four gospels. **Psalm 118:22 - 26** *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”* **Verse 26** is the verse where the people shouted praises when Jesus came into town. Those same people, who hailed Him as King, would shout for His crucifixion only a few days later. You may ask, "How can this event be called "The Triumphal Entry"? "Didn't Jesus end up dying only a few days later?" Yes, He did. I would like to show you some awesome truths that give us, who are sons of the King of Kings, true triumph. If we take a look at history, we can see that genuine monarchs were often brought to power with huge, elaborate coronations. There was great splendor and pageantry involved. There was often a long processional culminating with the King formerly taking power amidst all the music, cheers, and praises of the crowds. Jesus' coronation was very different, yet He was a true King -- The True King! **Read Matthew 21:1-11** and see the unfolding of the entrance of the King of Kings.

The Word Applied: *Do you see Jesus Christ as King? Specifically, how can that be seen in your life?*

Suggestion for Prayer: *Oh, Lord, help me to fully grasp who You are and Your eternal purpose for coming to this earth.*

TUESDAY – **Matthew 21:2–3** *“...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. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”* From our text, we find some details of great interest. Notice that Jesus gave directions to the disciples that make it clear to us that He was in control of the events taking place. Jesus knew the donkey and her colt would be waiting there; He knew the disciples would be questioned in taking them; and He knew they would be given permission (**Mark 11:5-6, Luke 19:33**). It says in **Mark 11:2** and **Luke 19:30** that the colt had never been ridden. It had been

saved by God for this moment in time. In **verse 5** a prophecy that had been given by the prophet Zechariah 500 years earlier, is being fulfilled (**Zechariah 9:9**). This King didn't come in on a white stallion; He came in on a donkey--humble, meek, and lowly. This time He wasn't coming to slay His enemies, but to be the sacrifice for sin and the Savior of the world. Thank God for such a Savior as Jesus Christ!

The Word Applied: Do you obey Jesus in the commands He has given you from Sacred Scripture? Are you picking and choosing what commands are "for you" to obey?

Suggestion for Prayer: Dear Lord, I am so grateful to know that You are sovereign and I can follow Your directions without a doubt as to the outcome. Teach me to trust You more, especially in the areas where I tend to doubt.

WEDNESDAY – Matthew 21:8–9 “And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!” These verses tell us what took place as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. First, the multitude of people began to spread their clothes out on the road before Him so He could ride over them. The spreading of one's garments before a King was an ancient act of homage and great respect (**2 Kings 9:13**). Those people were recognizing Jesus as their King and showing respect for Him, and their submission to His authority, by having Him ride over their clothing. Unfortunately, as we pointed out before, those same people would turn on Jesus and ask for His death a few days later. Are you in submission to the King of Kings? Do you put yourself under His authority? Read **Ephesians 1:18-23** and think about how *all things* have been put “*under His feet*”.

The Word Applied: Is there any area in your life where there is a sense of reservation in your submission to Christ's authority? Confess and repent of that today.

Suggestion for Prayer: Lord, help me to lay down my "coat" daily before You and give You the respect and honor You so greatly deserve. You truly are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

THURSDAY – Matthew 21:8 - 9 “And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!” We find in this text that not only were the people laying down their clothes before Jesus, but they were also cutting down branches from the trees and laying them before Him. In **John 12:13** it says that the branches were from “*palm trees*”. The palm was very significant in that it symbolized salvation and joy, victory and triumph. Cicero, a Roman Statesman (106-43BC), would call someone that had won

many prizes "plurimarum palmarum homo", which means "a man of many palms". Those people were waving their palms before the True Victor of all! Jesus Christ was triumphant over death, sin, and Hell so that we who believe could be triumphant also. Read **Revelation 7:9-12** and find out about another day that palms will be waved before the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word Applied: Meditate today on the fact that Jesus Christ, the greatest Victor of all has chose to love you and bring you victory through His work in your place.

Suggestion for Prayer: I look forward, Jesus, to the day I will be able to wave palms toward You because You and You alone are worthy of all praise and worship forever.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Matthew 21:9-11 “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! And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.” This text it says that there were multitudes of people around Jesus, in front and in back, surrounding Him on every side. This "mob" of people began to cry out, "Hosanna..." Hosanna is a Hebrew word that means "save now". It is an exclamation--"Oh, save!" They cried out to Jesus to save them. Unfortunately, they were not asking Him to save their souls, but rather to save their nation from Rome and all others. Jesus didn't come to conquer Rome, He came to conquer sin and death. Actually, the people were quoting from a praise Psalm from the Hallel (**Psalm 113-118**). More than 100 years earlier, the Jews had hailed Jonathan Maccabeus with this same Psalm after he delivered them from Syrian domination. My prayer is that you've cried out from your soul to Christ Jesus--"Save Now!" Read **Psalm 119:145-147**. Finish up this week with the same question the people from Jerusalem asked -- "Who is this?" Are you kidding?? This was Jerusalem, the Holy City, and yet they didn't know the Holy One! I want you to ponder that question. Who is this King of Glory? Who is He to you? Are you like those in the city who didn't know Jesus even though they were in His very presence? Read **Psalm 24:8-10**. For a look at the future entry of the King read **Isaiah 63:1-19**. Get a glimpse of the Messiah in judgment and salvation.

The Word Applied: Make a list of some Biblical terms or words and their definitions which describe Jesus Christ and His relationship to His people? Is He that to you?

Suggestion for Prayer: Oh, Lord, thank You for making it possible for me to be "saved" from sin, death, and eternal punishment for which I so greatly deserve! Lord, I know I will not fully understand the magnitude of who You are until I see You face to face in all Your glory, but, while I am waiting, please increase my love and knowledge of You so that I can better share it with my fellow believers and those who are lost.