



**The Passion of Jesus Pt 1:  
The King of Kings enters Jerusalem!**

Holy Week, March 25, 2018

***Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!***

The Holy Text: Matthew 21:1-11

**THE KING OF KINGS ENTERS JERUSALEM!**

- Because this part of the Holy Week narrative is reasonably straightforward, let us examine the beginning of the LORD's "passion week" from a redemptive and self-examining perspective.
- What I mean is the exegesis here is very simple. So let us put ourselves into the story and ask some Kingdom-oriented questions! :)
- Again, our goal is to experience Holy Week more from the LORD's point of view, learning and growing in grace along the way.

*Mat 21:1 (KJV) And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,*

- Why Jerusalem? Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem to die? Because Jerusalem was where the Temple was! It was where proper offerings to God had to happen.
- Not only was the Temple of God there, but Jerusalem was the center of all true religious activity and seat of Israel's authority. *It was the locus of their lives, the place of pilgrimage, the heart of Jewish national identity, a bastion of spiritual warfare, and a primary focus of biblical prophecy, including the promise of a New Jerusalem coming down from heaven one day! (Rev 21:2)*

QUESTION: Does the King rule over "your Jerusalem?" Has His life and mission taken the place of your previous identity? Are you more Christian than black, Christian than white or hispanic, Christian than American? Are you willing to offer yourself as He did, as a sweet smelling aroma to God? (2 Cor 2:15)

*Mat 21:2 (KJV) Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an (donkey, ESV) tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.*

- We've spoken previously about the deep and abiding humility of Jesus, *"who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Php 2:6-8 (KJV)

- As we've said before, there are two overlapping elements of the character of Christ that might bless us:

1. Christ's Humility
2. Christ's Commitment to the Will of His Father

QUESTION: How does our LORD's humility impact your own sense of and desire for meekness?

*Mat 21:3 (KJV) And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.*

- Just a quick exhortation concerning **faith**: Don't be afraid to speak the words of Jesus in the world! You never know how God is moving in people's hearts!

QUESTION: When was the last time you've been prompted along these lines, "The Lord hath need of them?"

*Mat 21:4-5 (KJV) All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an (donkey, ESV), and a colt the foal of an (beast of burden, ESV).*

- Here is the reference from the prophet Zechariah:

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zec 9:9 (ESV)*

- The fulfillment of biblical prophecy is a significant apologetic for the inerrancy of Scripture. As we teach each year in Covenant Life Class,

*"Could all the Bible's prophecies have been fulfilled by chance, good guessing, or deceit? Scientists have calculated that the odds of Jesus' fulfillment of just 48 of the 61 known prophecies about Him in this way are 1 in 10<sup>157</sup>!! By comparison, the number of electrons in the known universe is about 10<sup>79</sup>! In other words, it would be impossible. There is only one explanation: **the Bible is the Word of the Living God!**" 🙌*

*Mat 21:6 (KJV) And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,*

- In verse one, Jesus sent two disciples on a redemptive mission. Perhaps His request confused them or seemed a bit mundane at the time: "Go find me a donkey!"

QUESTION: Are you willing to obey our Redeemer in the mundane things? Are you willing to follow His orders when you don't fully understand?

*Mat 21:7-8 (KJV) And brought the (donkey, ESV), and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.*

- Finally (and sadly, momentarily), the people acknowledge Jesus as their true King. Laying down their clothes and laying branches before Him was an ancient way of creating a makeshift “carpet” for Christ to ride upon. Similar honors were often given to conquering kings, generals and other heroes when they returned to their cities. In just a few days however, most of these worshippers would “flip” on Jesus.

QUESTION: Where do your loyalties truly lie? If the whole world turned against Jesus, would you remain steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, knowing that your labor in the LORD is not in vain? (1 Cor 15:58)

*Mat 21:9 (KJV) And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*

- Hosanna means, “save now” or “oh, save!” It is a worship interjection; it is an exclamation and a way of saying essentially, “Jesus, you alone can save us, so PLEASE save us!”

**EXHORTATION: Let us cry out as they did, but with more loyal hearts! Save us LORD! Save our souls! Save our children! Save our families! Save our cities! Save our Nation!**

*Mat 21:10 (KJV) And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?*

- Interestingly, the word moved is a word that means “rocked.” Thayer says it means “to shake, agitate, cause to tremble; of men, to be thrown into a tremor, to quake for fear.
- Oh that our worship and preaching might stir men this way today!

QUESTIONS: What will you do to facilitate this “moving and shaking” in the lives of those who do not know Jesus? Does our LORD still cause YOU to quake in holy and reverent fear?

*Mat 21:11 (KJV) And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.*

- The “multitude” was right but limited in their knowledge. Jesus is indeed a prophet, but He is MORE.
- Friends, we are blessed. God, in His great mercy, has given revelation concerning His Son and His Gospel...

*Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God, rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God’s creation.*

QUESTION: Will you preach this message to any who will hear? Will you love enough to give people Jesus?

Let it be so LORD! Amen!

#### APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(Rom 14:19; Eph 4:9; 1 Thes 5:11; Jude 1:20)

1. Discuss how our LORD must have felt upon entering Jerusalem. What things do you think were going through His mind?
2. How do you think He felt a few days later before Pilate?
3. This was the LORD's "big moment," and yet he entered on a donkey. What can we learn from this sort of humility?
4. Discuss the great love of God in Christ. Be overwhelmed as a family. How magnificent is the love of Jesus towards sinners like us! (Rom 5:8)