

## **Palm Sunday: Who Is This Jesus?**

### **Matthew 21:10**

It was only a matter of days before He would be crucified, and Jesus had just entered Jerusalem. The crowd had been waving palm branches and shouting His praise. The onlookers weren't sure what was happening. in Matthew's words,

*When [Jesus] had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, 'Who is this?'*

— **Matthew 21:10**

“Who is this?” This question does not belong only in first-century Jerusalem. Throughout the centuries and continuing today, people have been opinionating and speculating on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. What does it take for God to move, shake, and stir an entire city? We can learn from this singular day two thousand years ago. It happened when Jesus' followers began to *experience* Him, to *extol* Him, and to *extend* Him to others. The result? The people around them began to ask, “Who is this?”

### **1. Experience Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_**

*So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. — **Matthew 21:6***

No doubt. No defiance. No delay. They just “went and did” in obedience to Jesus, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy that

*Your King is coming to you;... lowly and riding on a donkey. — **Zechariah 9:9***

### **2. Extol Jesus With \_\_\_\_\_.**

As Jesus began His descent into Jerusalem, the people began to honor and extol Him. They literally carpeted the road with their coats and palm branches as they shouted their praise:

*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! — Matthew 21:9*

Do you and I have any less reason to extol Jesus, to shout our own hosannas today?

### **3. Extend Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_!**

Caught up in the excitement of this moment, the people began to ask, “Who is this?” And the crowd lining the street responded with,

***This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee. — Matthew 26:10-11***

The people who had gathered not only experienced Jesus that day, they not only extolled Him, but they extended Him to others. “This is Jesus!” was their cry.

**Q & A:** “*Who is this?*” Ultimately, each of us must answer this question for ourselves. Who is Jesus to you? Was He a liar — a figure out of history who made some outrageous and completely untrue claims about Himself? Was He a lunatic — some crazed prophet from the middle of nowhere with illusions of grandeur and delusions of deity? Or is Jesus Lord? Your eternal destiny rests on your answer. May you join with the crowd in exclaiming, “This is Jesus!”

## **Your Turn**

HOSANNAH! Hosannah in the highest! Who is Jesus to you? Have you experienced Him? Extolled Him? Extended Him to others?