

## **The Journey to the Cross: A Victorious Sacrifice**

### **Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)**

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

**5** “Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”  
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

**10** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”  
**11** The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

#### **Message:**

#### **Introduction:**

Open with explaining the purpose of Holy Week and Palm Sunday.

#### **Body:**

This morning I want to talk about the Triumphant Entry. I have read this story many times but this time certain images stood out to me. As the team has been preaching over the last few weeks, the focus has been on discipleship - what it means and looks like for us to be disciples. And this morning we will continue with this topic as we look at what it takes to be victorious through sacrifice.

This morning we will look at Jesus’ journey to the cross and how He sacrificed His life to bring about victory AND we will also look at what is required of us on this journey to the cross.

**I want to talk to you about a donkey, a cloak, and a palm (assignment, sacrifice, victory)**

**The donkey = assignment** (Matthew 21:1-3, 6)

**1** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

**Point #1**

**We must be obedient to the assignment and not deviate from the course or the instruction.**

**The cloak = sacrifice** (Matthew 21:7-8)

**7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

**Point #2**

**The journey to the cross requires skin in the game.**

**The palm = victory** (Luke 19:36-38)

**36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. **37** When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

**38** "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

**Point #3**

**We must seal our victory with praise!**

Sacrifice and victory is all in your hand. The people laid down their cloaks (sacrifice) and then waved their palms while shouting praise to Jesus (victory) while Jesus journeyed to the cross on a donkey (assignment).

**Jesus wants us to have some skin in the game.** Jesus did all the work and bore our sins on the cross only but our sacrifice and declarations are an act of belief and it is our faith that connects us to the cross with Jesus Christ.

It is our actionable faith and trust in Christ that puts skin in the game for us! As Christ journeyed to the cross, then and now, we as His disciples...

Must be...

- willing to show up and be present (Luke 10:38-42)
- willing to release and let go (Genesis 22:9-11)
- willing to open your mouth (Esther 5:1-3)

**Jesus will do the rest!**

Same principle of tithing, giving God 10% and He will bless the 90% to feel like 110%!

## **Closing**

As we lay our sacrifice to the ground, it is covered in victory because the Messiah, our King who journeyed to the cross was letting you know that every burden was covered by His authority. That every sins we deserved to die for He was taking it to the cross, that all things are under His feet and what would seem like a hopeless journey, what would seem like a donkey just trampling over our sacrifice, is really the Messiah showing us that things might get a little messy, that we might need to get down and dirty but if we are willing, our sacrifices will turn into victory.

## **Prayer & Altar Call**