

Today is marked as Palm Sunday. Many people call it the Triumphal Entry. I find such a definition inaccurate. Here is why?

First of all, Palm Sunday was not celebrated by the early Church. It was not until the 4th Century, which is in the 500's, that it was even mentioned.

It was not until the 9th Century, that is, 900's A.D., that it was labeled as such.

With that said... I have had many problems with labeling Christ's coming into Jerusalem on a colt as the Triumphal Entry. I truly believe the Triumphal Entry happened at His Birth and again at His Resurrection.

I also want to point out that my problem is not the fact that it was not celebrated until later years, for we know that even Christmas was not celebrated until later years also. My problem is mostly the labeling of it as the Triumphal Entry.

Whether you share my opinions on this or not is fine.

With my opinions aside, I find this story among the most valuable in the Bible. It fulfills the prophecies and shows us how finicky people can be.

We read earlier...

Jesus raises Lazarus, and many believe.

Then 1 week before Passover, he rides into Jerusalem and people call him King.

Then 1 week later, they are calling for His Crucifixion.

This story is recorded in the 4 gospels.

The story is broken in 4 parts with Our Lord riding to the cusp of Jerusalem, entering Jerusalem, Returning into Jerusalem to Cleanse the Temple, and then leaving Jerusalem.

Preparation: The Colt is Sent For

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples ahead

(Matthew 21:1; Mark 11:1; Luke 19:29).

He said:

“Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back shortly.’”

(Matthew 21:2–3; Mark 11:2–3; Luke 19:30–31)

This took place to fulfill prophecy:

“Behold, your King is coming... humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt.”

(Matthew 21:4–5; John 12:14–15)

The disciples found it just as He had said. The owners questioned them, and they answered as Jesus had instructed, and they were allowed to take it.

(Mark 11:4–6; Luke 19:32–34)

They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

(Matthew 21:6–7; Mark 11:7; Luke 19:35)

A) Jesus tells the disciples where to find the colt and donkey, what to do, what others will say, and how to respond.

God does not leave things to chance. He is the greatest chess player ever and is always ahead of us.

A great crowd gathered—many who had come for the feast, including those who had seen Jesus raise Lazarus (John 12:12, 17–18).

They spread cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches and palm branches.

(Matthew 21:8; Mark 11:8; John 12:13)

The crowds cried out:

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest!”

(Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9–10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13)

Some Pharisees said, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.”

(Luke 19:39)

Jesus answered:

“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would cry out.”

(Luke 19:40)

A) Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Many are worshipping and welcoming, while others are angry and call for the silencing of the people, Jesus indicates that if they would be quiet, God can raise up stones to cry out. This must have been a punch in the gut for 3 ½ years earlier they heard this from John the Baptist.

Luke 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that **God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.**

A) The Pharisees intentions and motive for quietness was national and positional security.

B) If we do not do what God calls us to do, He will always find someone who will. It is not His loss but ours.

Esther – Elijah

Arrival in Jerusalem

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred, asking, “Who is this?”

(Matthew 21:10)

The crowds answered:

“This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

(Matthew 21:11)

He entered the temple and looked around at everything; since it was late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

(Mark 11:11)

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. (13) And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. (14)

In response, Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

(Mark 11:12-14)

A) Bethpage – House of Figs

As He approached the city, He wept over it and said:

“If you had known... the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes... your enemies will surround you... because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

(Luke 19:41–44)

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and bought there.

(Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:15; Luke 19:45)

He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves.

(Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:15)

He would not allow anyone to carry goods through the temple courts.

(Mark 11:16)

He said:

“It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

(Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46)

He also said:

“Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a house of trade.”

(John 12:16; cf. John 2:16_

His disciples remembered:

“Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”

(John 12:16; cf. John 2:17)

The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

(Matthew 21:14)

Children cried out:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

(Matthew 21:15)

The chief priests and scribes were indignant and said, “Do you hear what these are saying?”

(Matthew 21:16)

Jesus replied:

“Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise’?” Psalm 8:2

(Matthew 21:16) (Psalm 8:2)

The leaders sought to destroy Him, but feared Him because the people were astonished at His teaching.

(Mark 11:18; Luke 19:47–48)

(DRAMA TEAM PREP)

It does not take much to understand why leaders wanted Jesus dead.

Jesus was the King

Jesus the Saviour

Jesus the Cleanser

Jesus the Healer