

THE KING WHO CAME ON PURPOSE | JOHN 12:12-19 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 3/29/26

**I. His Declaration was Public (John 12:12–13) | II. His Designation was Purposeful (John 12:14–15) | III. His Destiny Produced Responses (John 12:16–19)*

INTRO: There are moments in history that don't just pass...they **ECHO into eternity!** **PALM SUNDAY** is one of those moments. – It marks the beginning of the final week of Jesus' life and public ministry on earth – a week that would change everything!

When we look at the Gospels, each writer gives us a **unique perspective**. Matthew, Mark, and Luke each tell the story with their own emphasis. **But John draws our attention to something deeper.** And when we place all four accounts together, it becomes clear, **this was No Ordinary Event!** ...

This was a Major Moment! – A moment that stirred a city, fulfilled prophecy, and continues to shape the faith of believers to this day. **PALM SUNDAY is more than a remembrance – it is a declaration that God KEEPS His Word.** – He does so because **this is HIS STORY!**

In previous years, I've covered the first three accounts. **But today, we turn to JOHN'S ACCOUNT.** And what we find brings us closer to the heart behind it all. – **This KING didn't just arrive... HE CAME ON PURPOSE ***

I. HIS DECLARATION WAS PUBLIC (12:12–13) – **READ:** (John 12:1) informs us that six days before the Passover, Jesus came to the home of Lazarus for supper, where we find **Martha** serving (*without complaining*), **Lazarus** (*alive*) witnessing, and **Mary** worshiping (*with costly oil*). *Expound*

The Next Day (12a): John changes the scene from a quiet dinner in Bethany, **to a noisy public parade, where Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem.** – This was not just a random day; **it was a significant day.** It was **Sunday, the 10th day of Nissan,** which was four days before the feast of Passover.

- **Families celebrating Passover** were required to choose and bring their sacrificial lambs to the priests for offering. So, the city was filled with the sound of bleeding sheep... but on this special day, **Palm Sunday, the Lamb of God made HIS ENTRY into Jerusalem.**
- **Prophetically this day would fulfill a portion of Daniel's Prophecy** of which he was to **"Know, and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah, the prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, but in trouble at times. And after 62 weeks, Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself..."** (Dan 9:25,26a)

According to this prophecy, there were two separate periods which equal **69 seven year units,** better understood as **483 years.** – **On March 14, 445 B.C.,** Scripture (Neh 2:1-8) and **HISTORY** tells us that King Artaxerxes allowed the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which brings us to **April 6, 32 A.D., exactly 483 years later...** The date of which Messiah, **ENTERED Purposely to offer Himself** for the sin of the world!

- **John the Baptist** understood that this was the role of the Messiah, having declared: **"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29)

A. Public Pursuit (12b) – **A great multitude had come to the feast:** (Deut 16:16) required **"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God..."** – **The Passover** drew massive crowds to Jerusalem, creating the perfect stage for a public declaration. – **So many gathered for a...**

B. Palm Proclamation (13a) – *They took branches of Date Palm Trees*, which symbolized **victory, joy, national pride**, and even **Messianic Expectation**. Many celebrated Jesus as a **deliverer**, though their expectation was largely political rather than spiritual. *(The only public demonstration that Jesus allowed)*

C. Passionate Plea (13b) – *They cried out “Hosanna!”* The phrase means **“Save now,”** revealing both **Praise and Desperation**. – The crowd quotes **Psalm 118**, a Messianic psalm, **correctly identifying Jesus verbally** but **not fully understanding His mission!** – **(Psalm 118:25–26)** – *“Save now, I pray, O LORD... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!”*

D. Partial Perception (13c) – They recognized Jesus as the **“King of Israel.”** – This is a bold public declaration of Jesus’ kingship. Yet their idea of kingship was incomplete – **They expected a throne without a cross.** – **The people rightly declare who Jesus is but wrongly define what He came to do!** Their praise is real – but rooted in misplaced expectations. – CH Spurgeon, *“There are many who shout “Hosanna” who do not want the cross.”* (Even today, *“Praise the Lord”* a loose term amongst many)

- **Their King Came to them on Purpose to Redeem**, but sadly... just a few days later, many of these would be crying, **“Crucify Him.”** – **(Luke 19:41)**, reveals that *Jesus wept as He entered!*

P/A – **Do I celebrate Jesus for who He truly is, or only for what I hope He will do for me?** – True worship acknowledges Jesus not only as Savior – but as sovereign King! *(Over our entire lives)*

– A.W. Tozer *“It is possible to praise Him with your lips and deny Him with your life.”*

II. HIS DESIGNATION WAS PURPOSEFUL (12:14–15) – **READ:** Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem is one of the few events recorded in all 4 gospels, **(Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-38)** – **John mentions** that it was **Jesus’ Purpose to Fulfill Prophecy**, therefore His entrance was a...

A. Planned Preparation (14a) – In John’s account *Jesus Intentionally Chooses ‘a donkey’* (singular), but the synoptics provide greater details about the selection process – In fact, **(Matt 21:2-3)** says, *“...you will find a donkey tied... loose them and bring them to Me...”*

- As *Jesus sat on the young foal*, we read of **no resistance at all!** – In **(Psalm 8:6-8)**, *“You have put ALL things under his feet... Sheep, Oxen, Beasts of the field...etc.”*
- **This was not incidental** – it was a **deliberate act** fulfilling prophecy and revealing His nature as a humble King. *It was a...*

B. Peaceful Presentation (14b) – **The donkey symbolizes peace, not war.** – **Jesus Christ was indeed the Promised King**, but He came in humility, not as a conquering military ruler. The manner of His entry contrasts sharply with the expectations of the crowd, showing that His kingdom operates on entirely different principles.

- **According to Rabbinical tradition**, the Messiah will ride a white horse. **But If Israel wasn't ready for Messiah, He would arrive on a donkey.** – Here, Jesus arrived on a donkey, not to confirm rabbinical speculation, but **to fulfill a Prophetic Designation** as written in **(Zech 9:9)** *“Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey...”*
- **Notice the 4 Elements listed of Messiah’s Character:** 1) **He is KING!** 2) **He is JUST!** 3) **He brings SALVATION** 4) **He is HUMBLE!** *(Jesus Christ in the ONLY KING that is worthy of my allegiance!)*

C. Prophetic Performance (15) – Because Jesus was in **full control of the situation**, *Scripture was fulfilled precisely*. – The phrase **“Fear not,”** is not found in Zechariah’s text, but added from (Isa 40:9), only after Jesus’ ascension, when the apostles understood the meaning of it all (cf. v.16).

- The application was meant to be a comfort; i.e., **‘YOUR KING IS HERE!’** Initially addressed to...
- The **‘Daughter of Zion.’** – Which is a personification of the city of Jerusalem in (cf. Zech 9:9a).

Every detail of this moment reveals Divine Design. Jesus is not reacting – He is fulfilling HIS STORY in the making, **GOD’S PLAN** written centuries before. His kingdom is not built on force, but on peace and surrender. – **But many at that time DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE KING’S PURPOSE!** (tt. v.37)

P/A – Will I trust God’s Plan even when I don’t understand it in the moment? (*Christ’s actions invoke faith!*)

Segue: **Jesus didn’t come with the force they expected** – He came with a purpose they misunderstood. And that misunderstanding didn’t just confuse people...it ultimately divided them.

III. HIS DESTINY PRODUCED RESPONSES (12:16–19) – **READ:** **Jesus’ Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday** produced different responses, everything from Confusion, to Excitement, to Hostility. His actions always divide between those who Receive Him and those who Reject Him. – *We see first...*

A. Delayed Perception (16) – *Those closest to Jesus struggled to grasp God’s Plan in real time.* – On many occasions, the disciples didn’t understand initially; (Luke 18:34) **“But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them...”** – **Q: Do you ever feel like this? You try to read the scriptures... but they just don’t make sense!** – **Keep reading... Keep seeking... Keep digging** because your **Spiritual Understanding** often comes later, after reflection.

- John tells us that **‘they remembered’ AFTER Jesus was Glorified (16b)** – After the Resurrection, **Everything Made Sense!** – The core of deeper understanding is not in flashy revelations but in the spiritual significance of Christ’s Sacrifice and Glorification. – (tt. John 7:39)
- The Holy Spirit brings Clarity to what once seemed confusing, **“...the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”** (John 14:26)

B. Declaring People (17-18) – *Witnesses testified about Lazarus being raised (cf. 11:45).* – Some people embraced Jesus because they thought that healing Lazarus showed Him to be the Conquering Messiah they had been waiting for. – **Their Response was Emotionally Driven, yet they bore witness!**

- **Personal testimony** played a crucial role in spreading the news about Jesus. – Many went out to meet Jesus because they had heard about this miraculous sign.
- **Miracles often attract attention, but not always true faith!** *Many followed Jesus for what He did, not for who He was.* (John 6:26) **“...you seek Me... because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”**

P/A – Check our heart to ensure that your Faith is rooted in Who Jesus is, not just in What He does!

C. Defiant Pharisees (19) – *The Pharisees express Frustration and Rejection* – Their Statement, “the world has gone after Him,” reflects both exaggeration and fear. – Their Determination to oppose Jesus grew as they realized **His influence was expanding beyond their control.** – **Their Response** emphasizes the increasing tension that would lead to His crucifixion!

Reflection: John's short account of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem, **us with some unavoidable realities...**

1. Jesus did not stumble into Jerusalem... He entered on purpose!

- He came to be declared as King, even if misunderstood.
- He came by divine design, fulfilling prophecy perfectly.
- He came knowing there would be division, yet He pressed on.

2. This King came not to take an earthly throne... but to go to a cross! – And that's the heart of the message... **He came for You!**

- He came knowing the cost.
- He came knowing the rejection.
- **Yet He came anyway!**

Final Applications: The King who came on purpose calls us to live on purpose—for Him

- Will you crown Him as King of your life?
- Will you trust His purpose even when you don't understand it?
- Will you follow Him beyond the praise into complete surrender?