

HOSANNA: “Save Now!” Mark 11:1-11 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 4/02/2023

I. The Setting (1-8) | II. The Saying (9-10) | III. The Significance (Topical)

INTRO: It is quite evident that since the Fall of Adam that **mankind needed a Savior!** In our fallen state we have drifted so far from God. Longing for satisfaction and fulfillment in life, **we end up empty!** – Apart from God, all of us end up in bondage to someone or something, which leaves us yearning for deliverance! **This is why God had to send His Son... Jesus Christ!**

- The very name “**Jesus**” communicates that He will SAVE PEOPLE from their sins! (**Matt 1:21**)
- The Salvation/Deliverance needed first and foremost, is from **Eternal Death** (**John 3:16-17**).
- **GOD’S SALVATION PLAN** involved the ‘right timing and circumstances’ to manifest: (**Gal 4:3-5**) says, *Even so we were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.* ⁴ *But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.* ⁵ *God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as his very own children.* (**Gal 4:3-5 NLT**) – God knew What to do, When to do it, and Who to send to Save His People! **JESUS IS THAT SAVIOR!**
- **When we examine the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ Triumphal Entry,** we learn of the special circumstances that existed, where God’s People were looking for a deliverer. (**tt.Mark 11:1-11**)

I. THE SETTING (1-8) – It was the **Feast of PASSOVER!** For a very long time Israel had been **Waiting for a King** (*Expecting Him*) – The events of this narrative take place on **Sunday,** (*aka Palm Sunday*) only a few days before Jesus would be crucified (**cf. John. 12:1,12**). – From Jericho, **Jesus made His accent to Jerusalem,** with many followers, having CALLED: Two Blind Men (**Matt 20:29-34**), Blind Bartimaeus (**Mark 10:46-52**), and a Short Tax Collector: Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:1-10**); whom He said *“...the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* (**Luke 19:10**).

A. Jesus’ Needed A Donkey (1-3) For what reason? May I suggest for the same reason that he needed a **Boat** to preach (**Luke 5:3-6**), and **Loaves and Fishes** to feed the crowd (**Matt 14:16-18**), and a **Coin** to make a point (**Matt 22:19**). – **Jesus needs Disciples to spread His love!**

- **Jesus sent two** (*unnamed*) **disciples** towards a town called **Bethphage** (*house of unripe figs*) on the western slope of Olivet to get a donkey to use for His entrance into the holy city.
- **Kings and Soldiers rode horses and stallions in the ancient world... Not Donkeys!** – Yet, Jesus was demonstrating that He was the King of Peacemaking by riding the *foal of a colt.* Many **Israeli patriots** anticipated Him to arrive as a powerful warrior or an elevated political monarch, but he would not.
- **Jesus also needed** this young donkey specifically to fulfill the prophecy of (**Zech 9:9**).

B. Jesus’ Instruction Carried Out (4-8) – This is what all of Jesus disciples should do! **Follow His Instructions** (**vv. 4-6**). – He said, *“Go”* and they went, amen... He said, *“find the colt,”* and they found it were He said, amen... He said, *“loose it, and bring it,”* and they did, amen... He

said, *“If you are questioned,” provide the reason, and they did, amen!* – As disciples, we must remember that Jesus is Omniscient! (*He has a reason for everything!*) When He instructs us to do something, **Trust and Obey Him as your LORD!**

- **The DISCIPLES spread their clothes (7)** – Out of **respect for their Lord**, the disciples laid their clothes on the “two donkeys.” (**Matt 21:7**), i.e. the donkey and the colt; **of which “no one had ever sat”** (**John 12:14**).
- **MANY spread their clothes/leafy branches (8)** – This was a very special moment in which the excitement intensified as Jesus road into Jerusalem on a colt. (*Picture the scene!*) – Their actions were part of an ‘**ancient practice**’ when welcoming a new king; as with Jehu, (**2 Kings 9:12-13**). – I see two interesting insights here:

1. **CLOTHES**, in the Bible, typifies our righteousness (e.g., Defiled garments, Linen Garments, or being Stripped of Garments, etc.) Here, garments are “Laid down” before Jesus
2. **Waving PALM BRANCHES** was a sign of accepting their new king, but also **a sign of defiance against the Roman government.** – **Patriotic Jews**, who desired the restoration of Israel’s former glory, waved these branches. (*Like Political parties of our day, we wave our flags/banners*) These were looking for a POLITICAL KING, not a Savior! Just like today, people desire salvation of a different kind!

Before Jesus could take care of the political problems of His people, He had to take care of the sin problem!

CLOSING THOUGHT: Though Jesus often concealed Himself from public recognition, **He now intentionally declares Himself to be the nation's Messiah and King**, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. – Matthew included in his gospel, that the King coming on the foal of a donkey was an Exact Fulfillment of (Zech 9:9), *“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”* – Everything was now in place for Jesus to make His Triumphal Entry.

II. THE SAYING (9-10) – The words uttered here are **Words for a King** (Exalting Him). The crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting *‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’*

A. HOSANNA is the Hebrew expression meaning: *“Save Now! or Save us, we beseech thee,”* taken from (**Psalm 118:25**). The phrase is used in three of the Gospel accounts: (**Matt 21:9; Mark 11:9, 10; John 12:13**). – The context of (**Psalm 118**), is a declaration of confidence in the Lord's salvation, made in a time of need!

B. As Jesus came through the city gates of Jerusalem, they **made references to David and David's kingdom**, because for a long time the Jews had been waiting for the Davidic Covenant to be fulfilled (**2 Sam 7; 1 Chron 17:11–14; 2 Chron 6:16**). – Their CRY, *“Hosanna in*

the Highest" (God be praised) showed that their expectation in their Messiah had finally arrived to establish God's kingdom there and then (cf. Luke 19:11). (*Comes in the name the Lord*)

C. "Blessed is He" (Matt 21:9) – This is an exact quotation from (Psalm 118:26), along with the messianic title, "*Son of David.*" The crowd acknowledged this as a Messianic claim!
– Interestingly enough, the date was Sunday, [9 Nisan, ad. 30} ... Exactly **483 years** after the decree of Artaxerxes mentioned in (Daniel 9:24-26).

- **Why was the word HOSANNA so appropriate?** – Because it was a **CRY OF HOPE** from an oppressed people living under Roman Oppression! Their cry was '*Save us now!*'
- Just a week later Jesus would save them, but not in the way they would have imagined.

CLOSING THOUGHT: These words are words of **affirmation** and **adoration**. Words suitable only for a King (Exalting Him). Many recognized and praised Jesus genuinely for who He was... **MESSIAH**...amen! But other motives existed too! [GOD KNOWS THE MOTIVES OF OUR WORDS]

III.THE SIGNIFICANCE (Var.) – What Jesus faced during Passion week must have been exhausting physically, emotionally, and spiritually! **But His works were the works of a King** (Execution His Father's Will) – As Jesus marched into Jerusalem that week, **He rode in as the antitype of the Passover lamb.** He was the sacrificial Lamb of (Gen 22:8), which *God promised to provide for Himself!*

HOW DID HE APPROACH IT ALL? Jesus Christ was *intensely focused* on the mission that His Father prearranged, so that mankind could be reconciled to the Father. DILIGENTLY...

A. Executed With PASSION – The Triumphal Entry was so significant that it was recorded in all four of the Synoptic Gospels: (Matt 21-27; Mark 11-15; Luke 19-23; John 12-19).

Several significant events took place:

- Triumphal entry on Palm Sunday (Zech 9:9)
- Jesus cleansed the temple for the second time (Luke 19:45-46)
- Jesus disputed with the Pharisees about His authority (Mark 11:27-33)
- He gave his Olivet discourse (Mat 24-25)
- He Ate His last supper with His Disciples (Luke 22:7-38)
- He Prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane, where He was betrayed and arrested.
- He was unjustly tried! (Luke 22:54-25)
- He was scourged and sentenced to carry a Roman cross to Golgotha
- He was crucified on the day before the sabbath, where he was buried in the tomb.
- on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath, He was gloriously resurrected.

No wonder His sweat was like drops of blood while praying in the Garden! (Lk 22:44)
So, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, **He knew that His time was soon** in *which He must die for the Sin of the World*. He was the only offering that God could accept. (*Our Propitiation!*)

B. Executed for our DELIVERANCE! – Scripture tells us that the **Messiah would come to set the captives free!** (Isa 61:1-3) *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to...”* – This is what He desires to do for **all mankind**, but you must first believe in Him. *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that His is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* (Heb 11:6)

– Salvation is first and foremost deliverance from Eternal Death (John 3:16-17).

– **But we also need to be delivered from:**

- Uncleanness: (Ezek 36:29) *Things that defile us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- Sin: (1 John 3:5) *Things that separate us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- Our Enemies: (Luke 1:71,74) *Those who oppress us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- This Present Evil World: (Gal 1:4) *Which seduce us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- The Devil (Col 2:15; Heb 2:14-15) *Who seeks to destroy us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- God’s Wrath (Rom 5:9; 1 Thess 1:10) *Which is not meant for us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*
- Ourselves (Jer 17:9; Rom 7:24) *As we often deceive us ...Oh Lord, SAVE NOW!*

CLOSING THOUGHT: The significance of Jesus triumphal entry was that HE KNEW the desperate circumstances of mankind since the fall, and **He did something about it! He laid down His life Willingly and Passionately...for ALL!**

- **What is your expectation of Jesus?**
- **Has your “Hosanna” grown into constant “Hallelujahs?”**
- **Are you as passionate about God’s kingdom as Jesus was?**