

Message to Conversation Guide *Triumphal Entry*

The King is Here - Matthew 21:1-11

Matt 21:1-11

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, tell him 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 the Daughter of Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
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, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 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!"

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." NIV

(see also **Mk 11:1-19, Lk 19:28-48, John 12:12-19**)

Discussion Questions

1. What is the background and context of the Palm Sunday story in relationship to the prophecy given by Zechariah 400 years before Christ? What was the situation that Zechariah was prophesying and speaking to in his day? How was his context similar to the context of the people in Jesus' day?

Zech 9:9-10

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.

10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the war-horses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.

*His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth. NIV*

2. Jesus commissioned the disciples to get a colt for him to ride. He didn't have them ask he just took the donkey and told the disciples what to say if there was an objection. What is the lesson of making everything that we have available to the Lord for his service?

Matthew 19:2-3

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, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

3. How excited were the crowds to see Jesus on Palm Sunday? What was symbolic about the passion of the crowd when they saw Jesus. Who was their focus exclusively on?

Matthew 21:8-9

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!" NIV

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred

4. The Jewish people were an oppressed people and they needed a liberator. The cry Hosanna means "save now" and relates to a desperate desire for deliverance. What kinds of things do modern people need deliverance from?

Matthew 21:9

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!"

5. When Jesus got in the city he cleansed the temple (**Matt. 21:12-17**). How is this symbolic of God's dealing with things in our life when Jesus becomes Lord of our life.

6. Discuss the follow primary points of the Palm Sunday story:

- *The arrival of the King represented hope for a positive future.*
- *The donkey owners released valuable resources to Jesus to use.*
- *The people in the crowd were exclusively focused on Jesus.*
- *The people were passionate and emotional about Jesus.*
- *When Jesus enters our life he confronts and deals with things that are out of order.*

7. How would you have responded on Palm Sunday if you had been in the crowd when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem? Discuss the role that emotions and passions play in our excitement concerning Jesus coming to save us.