

THE SCROLLS

Meeting The Messiah | Mark 11:1-11

Life Lesson

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem reminds us that God's plans are always purposeful and perfect, even when they unfold in unexpected ways. The same Jesus who came humbly on a colt entered the city fully aware of the cross that awaited Him – yet He went willingly out of love and obedience to the Father. His actions show that true greatness is found not in power or position, but in humble surrender to God's will. As followers of Christ, we are called to trust His sovereign plan, walk in humility, and live with confidence that every detail of our lives is under His divine control.

Examine Scripture

When they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and told them, "Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here right away.'" 4 So they went and found a colt outside in the street, tied by a door. They untied it, 5 and some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 They answered them just as Jesus had said; so they let them go. 7 They

Fit for a King

Mark 11 begins a new section in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, a city that holds His full determination and focus. Traditionally, the period from His entry into the city on Palm Sunday to His resurrection the next Sunday is called Passion Week. It covers the final moments of Jesus' life as He fulfills His purpose: offering salvation to mankind. Consistent with the main goal of his gospel, Mark sees these events as the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies, emphasizing Jesus as the only Messiah and Savior of the world.

To fully understand the significance of this passage, we should look at the events of Passover. In God's providence, this is the context in which Jesus enters Jerusalem. In (Ex. 12:3-6), we read that the 10th of Nisan was the day the Israelites were commanded to select an unblemished lamb for sacrifice. The lamb would then be sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan to provide blood that covered the doorposts and thresholds (Ex. 12:3-6). The Mosaic Law mandated that this be remembered every year to remind people of the cost of salvation. The 10th of Nisan was the day of selection, the day the lamb was chosen. It marked the start of the Passover celebration. Over 250,000 lambs would be chosen on the 10th of Nisan and sacrificed on the 14th.

On this day, Jesus enters Jerusalem as the true and final sacrificial Lamb. This is Palm Sunday, the 10th of Nisan. It is not just a day to celebrate His victorious entry into Jerusalem, but also a reminder that He was the lamb chosen by God to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. As John the Baptist proclaimed, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Paul and Peter affirm this truth in (1 Cor. 5:7) and (1 Peter 1:19). Therefore, Jesus enters Jerusalem not only as the sovereign Lord and King of Israel but also as the

brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their clothes on the road, and others spread leafy branches cut from the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven! 11 He went into Jerusalem and into the temple. After looking around at everything, since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

- Circle “colt” and write “Zech. 9:9” above it.
- Circle “Lord” in (v. 3).
- Circle “branches” in (v. 8).
- Circle “Hosanna!” in (vs. 9-10).
- Write “Ps. 118” in the margin.
- Underline “Blessed is” in (vs. 9-10)

Personal Notes

unblemished sacrificial Lamb—perfect and pure, the only sacrifice worthy of God’s full acceptance. On the 14th of Nisan, He would offer Himself to be crucified on the cross, fully satisfying God’s wrath for sin.

Vs. 1-3

Some commentators suggest that these verses show Jesus prearranged the colt, possibly with someone He knew or a follower. Although there’s no evidence of this in the text, it could explain how easily the disciples found and retrieved the colt. However, this view downplays the significance of this passage. Mark, along with Matthew and Luke, uses this moment to highlight Jesus’s omnipotence and omniscience. This moment underscores His deity and lordship.

In His omniscience, Jesus knew there was a colt, where it was, and who owned it. He also knew that people would ask the Disciples why they were taking the colt. Jesus understood everything about the situation because of His omniscience. Not only did Jesus know there would be a colt; in His omnipotence, He orchestrated every moment to ensure the colt was there exactly as He predicted. Consider this: in His creative power, Jesus arranged the movements of the universe so that this colt would be in the right place, at the right time, to demonstrate His glory.

Even in this response, Jesus is declaring His rightful place as King: “If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here right away’” (v. 3). Throughout his Gospel, Mark uses “Lord” to describe Jesus in (1:3; 2:28; 5:19), here, and will do so again in (12:36-37). Mark is clearly making sure that his readers understand that Jesus is not just a prophet or rabbi; He is the sovereign Lord, the Messiah.

Vs. 4-6

There is not much more to say about these verses other than that everything happened exactly as Jesus predicted. Once again, this reveals His omniscience and omnipotence. Honestly, it would have been enough to simply say “The Disciples found the colt.” However, Mark goes to great lengths to ensure we see that nothing occurs outside of God’s sovereign plan, not even the tiniest details, like a colt being tied in the right place at the right time.

Personal Notes

Vs. 7-10

There are three important details in these verses. These three details work together to reinforce Mark's depiction of Jesus as Lord. The first is the purpose of the colt. The second is people throwing their coats and palm branches onto the road. Finally, it is the cry of the people as Jesus entered the city.

First, consider the purpose of the colt. It was for Jesus to ride into the city. This might seem like a simple act, but since pilgrims typically walk into Jerusalem for Passover, it would be somewhat unusual. So, why would Jesus choose to ride into Jerusalem on a colt? It was to fulfill the prophecy of the Messiah, who would re-establish the throne of David. We see this prophecy in (Zechariah 9:9):

***Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem!
Look, your King is coming to you;
he is righteous and victorious,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

It shows humility for Jesus to ride into the city on a colt. Usually, a coronation involves the king riding into the city in regal garments, covered in gold and jewels. The king would use all his resources to show his authority, power, and wealth. But Jesus enters Jerusalem humbly, poor and meek. He arrives as a king who truly identifies with His people.

Secondly, we observe the actions of the people. They were throwing their coats and palm branches onto the road, which is an act of homage and humility. This was the subjects' response to their king. We see this in (2 Kings 9:13) when the people placed their garments at the feet of Jehu during his coronation. It served as a symbolic gesture of submission, saying, "I am beneath you. You may walk on me. You are my sovereign." In addition, we have the people waving and tossing palm branches. Palm branches were used as a sign of victory. As we see in (Rev. 7:9), palm branches are a part of the celebration of salvation.

Lastly, we have the shouts of the people in (v. 9-10):

***Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!***

Personal Reflection

1. How does Jesus' willingness to face the cross challenge your own willingness to follow God's will, even when it leads to suffering or sacrifice?
2. In what ways can you model the same humility and obedience in your daily walk with Christ?
3. The people shouted "Hosanna," yet many of those same voices would soon call for Jesus' crucifixion. How can you guard your heart against praising God with your words while denying Him through your actions or attitudes?
4. How does knowing that God orchestrates even the smallest details of His plan bring you peace and confidence in your own life's uncertainties?
5. Jesus revealed Himself as Prophet, Priest, and King. Which of these roles of Christ speaks most to your current spiritual need, and how can you respond to Him in worship and trust this week?

Commentaries

Exalting Jesus in Mark by Daniel Akin

MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Mark 9-16 by John MacArthur

BECNT: Mark by Robert Stein

Mt. Zion's Mission

*Mt. Zion Baptist Church exists to
MAKE, MATURE, and MULTIPLY
disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

The people were reciting the traditional pilgrim psalm of (Ps. 118). In Hebrew, "Hosanna" means "save now." One commentary suggests that the people were unlikely to fully understand its meaning, or at least that it was said of Jesus. He compares it to the modern-day "Bless you!" However, their shouts carried a "sensus plenior," or fuller meaning, that would be revealed later. Even if unintentionally, the people were declaring the coming of the Messiah, not to sit on a throne, but to hang on a cross. The Messiah, the King, would not be crowned with gold but with thorns. Still, this psalm and all the prophecies would be fulfilled, and salvation would come.

V. 11

After the jubilant entry and celebration, (v. 11) seems anticlimactic. Jesus went into Jerusalem and directly to the temple. He looked around and then left. As it was getting late, He and the Disciples left the Temple and returned to Bethany.

Interestingly, there's no mention of religious leaders, scribes, or priests greeting Jesus. After the people entered the city and celebrated, Jesus was seemingly met with silence. This is not surprising, considering the religious leaders probably didn't want to give Jesus the same recognition as the people. However, the silence of the religious leaders would soon be broken as they conspired to kill Jesus.

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the events in this text is the display of Christ's threefold ministry. First, Jesus shows Himself Prophet by knowing exactly where the colt would be found. Second, Jesus is revealed as Priest as He presents Himself as the sacrificial lamb. Lastly, and most obviously, Jesus is revealed as King. So, Christ's threefold ministry of Prophet, Priest, and King is evident as He entered Jerusalem.