

Palm Sunday

Burrito

■ Introduction John 12: 12

- Almost half of the book of John is dedicated to the final week of Jesus' life on earth
- The gospel writers placed a significant amount of importance on Passion Week
 - The Gospels have eighty-nine chapters in total
 - Four of those chapters are about the first thirty years of Jesus' life
 - Eighty-five chapters consist of the last three and a half years of His life
 - Twenty-nine chapters are dedicated to the final week
 - **When God repeats Himself, you know it is important**
- All four Gospels recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem see Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19
- This was the luckiest most obedient donkey in the world to have the Son of God ride on his back
- Palm Sunday
 - Celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
 - In the Jewish calendar, it is the tenth day of the month of Nisan
 - The day that Jewish families would select the lamb that would be sacrificed on the fourteenth day of Nisan—Passover
 - On this day, the Lamb of God rode into Jerusalem
 - He presented Himself to the nation, **for the first time and only time publicly as a king**
 - April 6, 32 AD stands for the Latin phrase: Anno Domini, the year of our lord.

■ Jesus Is More Appealing than Religion (vv. 12-13)

- The crowd was a group of religious people in Jerusalem for Passover
 - Passover was a celebration of remembering how God delivered them from Egypt Exodus 11-12
- It was a repetitive process
 - They traveled the same routes to get there
 - They went through the same rituals
 - They prayed the same prescribed prayers
- The people were hungry for something more than their religion was offering
 - This is why they gravitated to Jesus
 - **Hósanna** = *save now, we pray* **Pslams 118**
 - **Mark 12:37** and the common people heard Him gladly
- There was a clash between the old religious system and the new principles Jesus was teaching
 - **Matthew 15:1-9** ceremonial washing of hands (traditions, Isaiah)
 - Tax collectors, prostitutes, and murderers found it easy to hang out with Jesus
 - His harsh words were to religious leaders Matthew 23 Woah on to you.
- The difference between Jesus and religion
 - Religion emphasizes the outward; Jesus emphasizes the inward **Matthew 9:44**
 - Religion is about what you *can't* do; Jesus is about what you *can* do

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- Religion puts up barriers; Jesus pulls down barriers,
- In the temple, there were walls to keep people out of gentiles, Jewish women and men, and priest high priest.
- Religion is very good at keeping people out
- **Matthew 11:28** Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- Religion says, "Work your way to God"; Jesus says, "I am the way"
 - Most religions are about what you have to do to work your way to God
 - The gospel is the approach of divine accomplishment
- Jesus was the Pharisee's biggest nightmare
 - People were more attracted to Jesus than their religious system

■ Scripture Is More Reliable than Opinion vv. 16

- Everyone has an opinion about Jesus **Mark 8:27-28 - John 9:16 - 10:20**
- John quoted the Old Testament to explain who Jesus was
 - **Psalms 118:26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
 - **Zechariah 9:9** "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."
- God's revelation is more reliable than people's estimation
- Why did Jesus ride on a donkey?
 - The donkey showed Jesus's identity
 - Kings rode donkeys in times of peace
 - When a king came to wage war, he would ride a horse (Revelation)
- **vv. 15** "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."
 - John was referring to Daniel's prediction, which gave an exact timetable for the coming of the Messiah **Daniel 9:25**
 - The Messiah would appear to the Jews 483 years after the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem
 - Sir Robert Anderson of Scotland Yard wrote a book on this prophecy called *The Coming Prince*
 - He discovered the day the Jews were given the commandment to rebuild was March 14, 445 BC
 - He began on March 14, 445 BC, and counted 173,880 days, leading him to the date April 6, AD 32
 - This was the date (day) Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and presented Himself as their King
- The disciples did not understand the significance of this until after Jesus rose from the grave
 - They discovered how reliable the Scriptures are vs opinion
 - God's Word gives up security and freedom
 - When your life is governed by God's Word, you will have confidence and security

■ Following Is More Important than being a spectator vv. 16

- John mentions four groups of people who were there that day

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1. The disciples
 2. Eyewitnesses who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead (see v. 17)
 3. Those who heard from the eyewitnesses that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead
 4. The religious leaders
- All four groups observed the same event
 - The disciples were the only ones who were really following Jesus
 - Even though they did not understand the significance at the time, they would eventually
 - Observation is good
 - But it must lead to conclusions
 - Some people study extensively, but stop short of actually following the One they are studying
 - There comes a point at which what you study must be translated into what you do
 - There must be a day that what you have heard comes to yield fruit in your lives
- **Closing: Luke 19:41** *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, **especially in this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*
1. How will you respond in your day of visitation?
 2. The God who engineered these events with such exactness can handle and change you
 3. This God is worth following