

DAY 1: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY — PALM SUNDAY

Jerusalem was filled with energy and anticipation. Passover was approaching, and people had traveled from many places to take part in the celebration. But this day was different. Something remarkable was happening. Jesus, the One known for healing the sick, feeding crowds, and speaking truth with authority, was entering the city. Yet, He wasn't arriving as a political figure or a conquering ruler; He was coming as the King of Peace.

As He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, the crowd responded with excitement. They spread palm branches on the road and cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" They saw Him as the long-awaited Messiah, the One who had come to rescue them. Still, they misunderstood the nature of His mission. They were looking for deliverance from Roman rule, but Jesus came to bring a greater freedom. Freedom from sin and death.

MATTHEW 21:1-11

“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ‘Say to Daughter Zion, “See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”’

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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 heaven!’ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”

Palm Sunday marks a powerful moment where Jesus openly revealed Himself as King; but not in the way people expected. Instead of arriving on a warhorse, He came humbly on a donkey, making it clear that His kingdom is marked by peace and serving others. He was to be the servant King, who would ultimately give His life for His people.

The people’s shout of “Hosanna” carried both praise and a cry for salvation. While they longed for political rescue, Jesus came to meet a deeper need, the healing of the human heart. His kingdom brings peace, transforms lives, and offers grace and forgiveness to all who receive Him.

Palm Sunday reminds us that Jesus is more than a historical figure or King of the Jews. He is the King over all. He brings peace, salvation, and restoration, and invites everyone into His kingdom. Though His kingdom is not of this world, it’s available to anyone who chooses to follow Him.

REFLECT

What does it personally mean for you to call Jesus “King”? Are you willing to surrender to His authority not just in what you say, but in how you live? Take time today to consider His character. Jesus is humble, gentle, and sacrificial. Ask God how you can make space for His leadership in your life. Remember, true freedom isn’t found in circumstances, but in the King who gives eternal life.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for coming as a King full of peace and love. Thank You for giving Your life so that I could know You. Today, I choose to make You the King of my life. Help me to live in a way that reflects who You are. You are full of humility, grace, and truth. I welcome You, Jesus to rule in my heart. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.