

"THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY"

Luke 19:28-44

Welcome to our Palm Sunday service. On this day Christian churches all over the world will celebrate the *Triumphal Entry* of Jesus into Jerusalem. The importance of this story is indicated by the fact that it appears in all four gospels.

Today marks the first day of Passion Week—**the most important week of the most important person who has ever lived, the Lord Jesus Christ.** He knew exactly what was going to happen this week. That's what makes the last week of His life different than any other person who has ever lived. His mission was to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). **Now was the time. Jerusalem was the place.**

Jews from all over the world streamed into Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. This was a special religious observance which honored God

for His supernatural deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage. With this context firmly fixed in our minds and hearts, let's unpack this story and see the applications it has for our lives today.

1. THE PRESENTATION

Luke 19:28... After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

Jesus was a wanted man. The Jewish religious leaders *"planned together to kill Him"* (John 11:53). Why? People were flocking to Him for many reasons including the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. Knowing full well the danger He faced, Jesus came into Jerusalem in the most public way possible.

Luke 19:29–35... When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. 31

"If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.' " 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus *on it*.

Jesus had certainly gotten the attention of the Jewish people because of His teaching, His many miracles, His integrity, and His passion for truth. Among the Jewish people there was a keen sense of Messianic expectation. **Was Jesus their promised Messiah who would deliver them from Roman oppression?** In the scene before us, Jesus does present Himself as the Messiah, the King of the Jews. He does so in several obvious ways...

Jesus sends for a tethered colt (30).

As Jacob was dying, he blessed his sons and revealed the future implications of their lives. Here's what he spoke over Judah...

Genesis 49:10–11... "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples. **11** "He ties *his* foal to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, And his robes in the blood of grapes.

God promised that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah and that He would be one of David's descendants. This tethered donkey's colt in our story today would remind the Jewish people of Jacob's prophecy. It was a clear indication that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah.

Jesus calls Himself "Lord" (31-34).

Psalms 110:1... The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Later on during *Passion Week* Jesus used this verse when He confronted the Pharisees concerning His identity. Jesus was fully God and

fully human! In the future every human being will bow the knee to Jesus and call Him "LORD."

Philippians 2:9–11... For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, came to Jerusalem clearly presenting Himself as the King of the Jews!

2. THE ACCLAMATION

Luke 19:36–38... **As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. 37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 38 shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

April 13, 2025
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The people themselves proclaim Jesus to be the Messiah through their words and their actions.

Jesus rides on a donkey (35).

This same scene took place when Solomon became king...

1 Kings 1:38–40... So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. **39** Zadok the priest then took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" **40** All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise.

By choosing to ride a donkey instead of a horse, Jesus was sending a message. He was not coming to lead a revolt against the Roman government. He was coming as "*The Prince of Peace.*" Any Jew who halfway knew the Old Testament would

make the connection that Jesus is the Messiah, the King of the Jews!

Jesus fulfilled a key Messianic prophecy.

Zechariah 9:9... Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The people were caught up in a Messianic zeal. They spread their cloaks before Him (a sign of submission) as He rode towards Jerusalem. John's gospel tells us that they waved Palm branches. These were often waved to symbolize military victories.

It's becoming painfully clear that there is a gaping contrast between the people's expectation of their Messiah and the Lord's purpose. They wanted Him to provide political peace. He came so that they could have personal peace.

Romans 5:1... Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:27... "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Jesus receives the people's praise (37-38).

The people lift their voices in praise and worship for all the miracles Jesus had done. Then they sing a familiar Psalm...

Psalm 118:24–26... This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** O LORD, do save, we beseech You; O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity! **26** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

In John's gospel, the people shouted *Hosanna* which means "save us now." Once again we can see that the people were looking for a political

Messiah whereas Jesus came to seek and save the lost! So, in this triumphal entry we've seen the presentation and the acclamation. That ultimately led to...

3. THE CONFRONTATION

Luke 19:39–40... Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." 40 But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"

I want you to see that Jesus received the praise and worship of the people! However, not everybody was thrilled. The religious leaders were incensed. I believe that at this point they took their opposition to a new level.

John 12:19... So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

Nothing tells Satan and his minions that they have lost like the praises of God ringing in their ears. Satan loses because when God's people are really

worshipping, their hearts and minds are on the Lord, not on the things of this world.

During His ministry Jesus did everything He could to discourage people from publicly celebrating Him as Messiah. On this day Jesus received the public praise and adoration of the people. Why if they were to cease praising Him, "*the rocks would cry out!*" Creation can't be muzzled when it comes to the Creator...

Psalm 96:11–12... Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, and all it contains; **12** Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.

4. THE LAMENTATION

Luke 19:41–44... **When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround**

you and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

"Wept" means to 'wail' or 'sob.' He looked around and saw spiritual blindness. He looked ahead and saw judgment and destruction. It crushed the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus wept over the fact they had missed key Old Testament prophecies including Daniel's...

Daniel 9:24–25... "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*. **25** "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

Daniel said that it would be 483 years (on the Jewish calendar) from the day the decree was made to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the day the Messiah would come to Jerusalem. This was fulfilled to the very day when Jesus came to Jerusalem in triumphal procession.

CONCLUSION

Here's the truth that captures the essence of this story...

BELIEVE IN JESUS WHILE YOU CAN!

1. He is one and only Savior.

Acts 4:12... "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Peter 2:24... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2. Serve Him as your King.

Jesus is your Savior. He is also your Lord and King.

Romans 14:9... For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

3. Get ready for the next *Triumphal Entry*.

Revelation 7:9–12... After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; **10** and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation** to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, "**Amen**, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

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