

“The Great Multitude” John 12:12-19

I. *The Great Multitude, why they were in Jerusalem, their treatment of and likely expectations of Jesus -*

¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! *‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’* The King of Israel!” John 12:12–13 (NKJV)

1. *They were in Jerusalem for the feast, not the feast held in Jesus’ honor because of the raising of Lazarus, but the Feast of the Passover –*

12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. John 12:1 (NKJV)

- A. *Note, the Lazarus party was six days before the Passover – John 12:1 ↑*
- B. *Lazarus’ party was in Bethany, near Jerusalem.*
- C. *This is the next day, John 12:12, and Jesus is entering Jerusalem.*

2. *The multitude that comes out to meet Jesus is counting Him as their King, their Savior, the Christ –*

- A. *The palm Branches, the cries of Hosanna!*
- B. *The statement -*

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!” John 12:13 (NKJV)

These words, this Grand Greeting is likely because they heard of the raising of Lazarus, but also because of an EXPECTATION, that He would deliver them from Roman rule –

II. *Jesus came according to prophecy –*

¹⁴ Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵ “*Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.*” John 12:14–15 (NKJV)

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.*” Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV)

1. *Maybe they knew of this prophecy? Yet, if they would have read it in context, maybe they also read –*

⁶ So he answered and said to me: “*This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.*” Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

- A. *Understanding rightly would mean they would understand Jesus did not come to lead a military against Rome, He did not come to establish a Jewish empire!*
- B. *Rather He came to save both of them, the Jews, and the Romans, and all of us other gentiles too, from our sins – ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)*

2. *As John tells us, He was and is, the ruler over the kings of the earth, but a different kind of King than they expected –*

“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religions the distance of infinity.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

3. *The fulfillment of prophecy was not noted by Jesus’ followers until after He died and resurrected –* ¹⁶ **His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. John 12:16 (NKJV)**

III. Yet, His fame was spreading due to the raising of Lazarus –

¹⁷ **Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.** ¹⁸ **For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. John 12:17–18 (NKJV)**

1. *Lazarus was raised, many witnessed this miracle!*
2. *There was a celebration because of this, six days before the Passover.*
3. *The Passover brings a crowd to town, and the talk of the town is the raising of Lazarus!*

IV. O how frustrating this was to Jesus’ enemies –

¹⁹ **The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” John 12:19 (NKJV)**

1. *“The world” multitudes flocking to Jesus Christ - :12*
2. *“The world” Greeks were coming to see Jesus - :20*

³¹ **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NKJV)**

The opposite is also true, if God be against us, who can be for us? My kingdom come, My will be done! Is a doomed prayer!

3. *They (Jesus’ enemies) would win the multitude to their side, but still, they would not win! Be sure you choose to side with God and not the side of SIN!*

²¹ **But they shouted, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Luke 23:21 (NKJV)** *The shouts of a crowd are over-rated, side with God and what is right! The victory comes but not by might – Zechariah 4:6*

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