

Morning Sermon April 5, 2020
"Coming to Jerusalem" Matthew 21:1-13

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem is discussed in all four Gospels, it is the start of an eight day period in Christ's life and ministry which is given a great amount of attention, not only in the Gospels, but all of Scripture, the most important part of the most important LIFE!

I. Coming in peace –

21 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." Matthew 21:1–3 (NKJV)

1. Jesus' riding into Jerusalem on a donkey was not His normal way, He did not own a donkey, He had to borrow one. Most people in that day did not ride donkeys, most people walked.
2. Riding in on a donkey was symbolic, a king would typically ride a horse, or a horse driven chariot, Jesus Himself will one day come on a horse –

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

When a king rode on a donkey, the circumstance was opposite of his riding a horse, note Revelation 19:11 tells us about Jesus on a white horse and it says - He judges and makes war. Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

A king can hardly make war on a donkey, it is too short, too slow, too hard to ride, the donkey was not an animal for war but rather the donkey and a king riding one was symbolic of PEACE!

3. Coming in peace, though not on a donkey, is also how we are to bring the Gospel to people –

¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Ephesians 6:15 (NKJV) Part of Paul's Ephesians 6:10-20 Armor of God / Battle with the Devil passage...

II. Coming according to prophecy –

⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" Matthew 21:4–5 (NKJV)

Some of the Israelites would know the Zechariah 9:9 prophecy –

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. They were commanded in the prophecy to:

- A. Rejoice greatly
- B. Shout
- C. Behold – meaning to see, recognize, understand!

2. Why were they to rejoice?

- A. your King is coming to you
- B. He is just and having salvation

3. How were they to identify this King? He is described - Lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

III. Coming with praise –

⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." Matthew 21:6–11 (NKJV)

1. The best praise has obedience connected to it -

⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set *Him* on them. Matthew 21:8-9

2. *Jesus' praise was the praise of a multitude – And a very great multitude ... Matthew 21:8*

3. *They honored him with actions - spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8*

4. *They honored Him with Biblical praise / words –
9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9*

²⁵ *Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Psalm 118:25 (NKJV)*

²⁶ *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! Psalm 118:26 (NKJV)*

5. *But their knowledge of Who / What Jesus was / is was lacking*

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¹⁰ *And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." Matthew 21:10–11 (NKJV)*

A. *Jesus was more than a prophet*

B. *Son of God*

C. *The Christ*

IV. *Coming to cleanse the Temple –*

¹² *Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" Matthew 21:12–13 (NKJV)*

The first place Jesus went to after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem was the Temple. He had cleansed the Temple at the beginning of His ministry, in John 2 we read about it happening after His making water into wine. Here, we see Jesus near the end of His

earthly ministry, He cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem, before He cleanses HIS spiritual Temple the Church with His blood on the cross!

1. *Notice sin had returned - and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves ... Matthew 21:12*

Jesus had cleansed the temple at least once before, and yet this house of prayer two or three years later is as bad, as much a "den of thieves" as before!

2. *Notice sin's return did not discourage Jesus, His zeal, His fierceness against sin is the same –*

⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)*

3. *The same passion, zeal for us leads to His using His blood to wash away 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)*

4. *We are His Temple –*

¹⁶ *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. 1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV)*

¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

²⁰ *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)*

¹⁹ *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)*

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