

The Triumphal Entry of Christ

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church
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Introduction: Traditionally, we call this day Palm Sunday. The week before Christ's death, burial, & resurrection, He triumphantly entered into the city of Jerusalem. This is one of the few events recorded in all 4 Gospels. There are three typical responses to the coming of Christ. Some people will **reject** Him totally, refusing to have anything to do with Christ. Others will **recognize** Him as the Messiah and give "lip-service" to Him as their Lord, but will a few days later cry, "*Crucify Him!*" And then there are those who **receive** Him as their Savior, and submit to Him as their Sovereign. As we examine Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, ask yourself which one of these responses characterizes you. Note with me here the preparations for His entry (:1-3), the prophecies of His entry (:4-9), & the perplexities at His entry (:10-11). Are you ready for the coming of the King? What will you do with Jesus?

I. The preparations for His entrance into Jerusalem (21:1-3)

A. The transportation needed (:1-2)

1. The **source** of transportation (a common means of travel in those days).
 - a. The colt had not been broken ("...whereon never man sat..." Mark 11:2).
 - b. The colt was under the control of its Creator (Psalm 8:6-7).
2. The **symbol** of transportation (not a horse, but a donkey).
 - a. Usually merchants or priests rode donkeys.
 - b. On occasion, a king would ride upon a white donkey, but only in a time of peace.

B. The testimony given (:3) "*the Lord hath need of them*"

1. The animals' care (the mother of the colt is brought along – see 21:7).
2. The owner's consent (the animals are borrowed – cf. other "borrowed" things: home, money, cross, tomb) "He had nothing of this world's goods, but what was given or lent Him" (Henry); yet see John 1:3 & 10, "*All things were made by Him; & without Him was not anything made that was made...He was in the world, & the world was made by Him, & the world knew Him not.*"

Application: Christ has the right to call for & use whatever we have: our time, talent, tongue, treasure. Are these things of yours readily available for Him to use?

II. The prophecies of His entrance into Jerusalem (21:4-9)

A. The prophecy of His purpose - Zechariah 9:9, "*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, & having salvation; lowly, & riding upon an ass, & upon a colt the foal of an ass.*"

1. The **Person** Who is coming > He is "just"
 - a. His holiness – Hebrews 7:25-28 & Luke 1:35.
 - b. His sinlessness – I Peter 3:18 & Hebrews 4:15, 5:8-9.
2. The **purpose** of His coming > He is "having salvation"
 - a. As the Lamb of God – John 1:29 (& cf. I Peter 1:18-19).
 - b. As the salvation of God – Luke 19:9-10 (cf. Titus 2:11 & Hebrews 5:8).
3. The **picture** at His coming > He is "lowly" (Matthew 21:5, "meek").
[Christ comes as a man of peace, on a donkey, like a merchant or priest. He comes as the Prince of Peace. See Matthew 11:28-29, "...I am meek & lowly."]
 - a. His condescension – Philippians 2:5-7.
 - b. His humiliation – Philippians 2:8.

Summary: He came not to conquer the Romans, but to conquer death, hell, & the grave.
He came not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- B. The prophecy of His praise - Psalm 118:25-26, “Save now, I beseech Thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech Thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.”

1. The **preparation** for the King:

- The garments > ancient act of reverence (homage) for royalty (cf. II Kings 9:13).
- The branches (palms) > symbolized joy & salvation (cf. Revelation 7:9).

2. The **proclamation** to the King:

- The cry: “*Hosanna*” means ‘save now’ or ‘save us, we pray.’
- The comparison: “God save the King (Queen).”

3. The **presentation** of the King:

- The recognition of Christ as the ruling Monarch (in the line of David).
- The rejection of Christ as the suffering Messiah (they wanted a conquering King).

Application: If the prophecies of Christ’s first coming were fulfilled down to the finest detail, shall not the prophecies of His Second Coming also be perfectly fulfilled?

III. The perplexities at His entrance into Jerusalem (21:10-11)

- A. By those who ask, “*Who is this?*” (:10)

- There is general commotion at His coming.
- There is great confusion as to His person.

[Those who are unsaved? Though there be world-wide recognition on this Palm Sunday, Good Friday, & Easter Sunday, there is still perplexity by many who ask: “Who is this?” They do not know Him in a personal way]

- B. By those who answer “*This is Jesus the prophet...*” (:11)

- This speaks of their lack of knowledge??

[Christ was born in Bethlehem, not Nazareth; He is more than a prophet (see John 7:41, 52)]

- This indicates their fear of others??

[Those who are saved? Yet these who know something about Christ but refuse to publicly proclaim Him to others because of a lack of knowledge or a fear of others’ reaction.]

Conclusion: Are you perplexed about Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem? Do you lack the proper knowledge about His person or His purpose? Do you fear the reaction of others so much that you refuse to tell them about why Christ came? Are you willing to spend time in study of His Word & supplication before His throne in order to know Him better & to witness for Him more effectively?

If you are here without Christ, what is your response to the triumphal entry of Christ? Will you be one who **rejects** Him totally (eternally)? Will you be one who **recognizes** Him (superficially) with head-knowledge but not in heart-faith? Or will you **receive** Him (personally) as your personal Savior & submit to Him as your Lord? Christ entered the city. Christ experienced the cross. And now He extends the call: “*Come unto Me...*” (Matthew 11:28-29), & “*I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, & shall go in & out, & find pasture* (John 10:9). Are you ready for the coming of the King? What will you do with Jesus? What will you do this week for Jesus?