*Don’t Miss it!*

*Matthew 21:1-17 NIV*

*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,****2****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.****3****If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”*

***4****This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:*

***5****“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.’”[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23832a)*]*

***6****The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.****7****They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.****8****A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.****9****The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,*

*“Hosanna[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23836b)*] to the Son of David!”*

*“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23836c)*]*

*“Hosanna[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23836d)*] in the highest heaven!”*

***10****When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”*

***11****The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

***12****Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.****13****“It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23840e)*] but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’[*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23840f)*]”*

***14****The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.****15****But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.*

***16****“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.*

*“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,*

*“‘From the lips of children and infants
    you, Lord, have called forth your praise’[*[*g*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23843g)*]?”*

***17****And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.*

**Sermon:**

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. For us it is a recognition that Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised one of God, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, The Great I Am, Jehovah Jireh, our provider. (Is. 9:6-7)

We can shout together “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (vs. 9b)

I am always with heavy heart and intrigued by the response from celebration to crucify! It is this time the palms were thrown down and spread that gives us a brief opportunity to be glad in our hearts during what will be a heartbreaking week in the life of our Lord.

We need not silence our joy because we realize who Jesus is even though His own people refuse Him.

Preacher, teacher, Evangelist, those who study the Bible agree that the Jews failed to identify their own King even when He came to them exactly as prophesied by Zechariah and Isaiah.

Biblical scholars agree that when Jesus came riding in on the foal of a donkey it was like using a giant billboard or public address system to proclaim His title as Messiah.

Zechariah tells us… Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 NIV

And Isaiah tells us… Isaiah 62:11 NIV

“The Lord has made proclamation, to the ends of the earth: Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.”

Zechariah made his prophecy about 520 years before Christ and Isaiah made his prophecy about 700 years before Christ. The Jewish Bible scholars wrote them down and kept looking for the day when they would happen. So they could celebrate.

The Pharisees in fact knew the significance of Jesus and His purpose but purposely denied it. (John 3:1-2 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2**He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”)

"Whenever we might easily miss the significance of what was going on, the Pharisees come to our rescue. They felt that the overzealous crowd was blaspheming, proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah the King. However, Jesus endorsed it!" [[1]](#footnote-1)

*“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Luke 19:40 NIV*

The Jewish people knew for a very long time to be looking for someone to enter the city of Jerusalem just as Jesus did but only Jesus followers celebrated the event with the passion and joy it deserved.

What about you?

Have you ever missed a sign someone was trying to give you, or failed to identify something important?

I think we can all plead guilty to this.

But mistaking just who the Messiah is will be an eternal mistake with eternal consequences. Those who would accuse Jesus later in the week knew exactly what Jesus had done by riding into the city that way. They knew their Bible and they knew that Jesus was making a public announcement about His identity, yet they accused Him of failing to say just who He was.

They willfully closed their eyes to the truth.

Have you ever found yourself doing that too, closing your eyes to what is right in front of your eyes?

Maybe you have done it at tax time as you refuse to believe how much you owe?

Maybe you willfully closed your eyes when your walking down the street and see that homeless person, the person with mental issues, that mother standing with her children looking for their next meal. Not practicing social distancing, then you find out someone you know has been affected

In the end you had to face the reality of what you saw and conclude that seeing is believing.

The Jewish leaders of Jesus time refused to look reality in the face. Instead they would scheme and plan for a way to bury the truth.

The problem is that great truths cannot be buried, they cannot be ignored or brushed off. They rise to confront us about our denial and rejection and press upon us till we accept them.

For nearly 2,000 years that is what Jesus on the foal of a donkey has done for every Jew.

Jesus triumphal entry is really a triumphal exit. You see Jesus had fulfilled all the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. Jesus raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, healed the Lepers, calmed a storm with His hand and walked on water. Jesus fed the multitudes, drove out evil spirits and set those captives to sin free by His Gospel of love and truth.

Palm Sunday was just a single exclamation point for the Son of God. It was marking the end of an era and the beginning of a New Testament.

It marked the exact fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy that the Messiah would be cut off in Daniel 9:25-26 and that 69 of 70 weeks of prophecy had been fulfilled.

Yes, I mention prophecy Saints because Jesus is not finished with the Jews or Jerusalem or with you or me. You see this was just Jesus entry into Jerusalem to be its long-awaited King.

But a time is coming and sooner than you think when Jesus will return in power and authority to claim the Throne of this World and He will set up His earthly kingdom in Jerusalem.

Well I can tell you that no one will miss identifying Jesus on that day.

Palm Sunday remains for us a dress rehearsal for The Day of the Lord. So, I tell you now get right with God and do not put off till tomorrow what you know you should do today.

Welcome the Savior of your soul into your heart and let Him reign as King of your Life. Hosanna to King Jesus, loud hosannas sing, He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords let us proclaim it in our hearts and in our daily lives until He comes in Glory, Majesty and Power. – Amen.

Reverend Tanya Renata Spencer

Good Shepherd Community of Faith

April 3, 2020, Palm Sunday

Dear Friends ~

Join us every Sunday at our usual worship time, 10:30 AM, on Facebook Live. We will offer a scripture reading and sermon. Please note: we will not meet at the church at that time.

<https://www.facebook.com/Good-Shepherd-Community-of-Faith-222076441155736/>

We are also having bible study every Tuesday at 6:30 PM via Zoom. This can be done on your computer or phone. Zoom is versatile because if you don’t have a computer, you can call in from your phone and enter the discussions. If you would like to participate in Bible Study, call us and let us know.

If a family member is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care, do not hesitate to call Reverend Tanya Spencer directly at 716-783-4443.

1. Missler, Chuck, Daniel's 70 Weeks, Koinonia House, 2004 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)