

Palm Sunday

Lesson 3

Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40

April 5, 2020

Lord of the Universe

Introduction

The Jews grew up hearing about the exploits of King David, how he conquered many foes, how he returned triumphant from a battle won by God's hand, how he had a heart after God, which made him the greatest king Israel had ever seen. For centuries the Jews read and reread the prophecies about the future coming king. They looked forward to the day when their enemies would be crushed beneath their feet, and their new king would reign supreme!

Cut to Jesus' coming. Jesus, born not in a palace, but a stable. Raised in Nazareth, a small town that many believed nothing good could possibly come from it. Coming not to rule supreme but stooping to wash the feet of those He loves, and claiming to be the son of God, of which was a blasphemous offense in his culture. How would the people react to this unexpected king?

Memory verse: "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." —Philippians 2:9-11

Pray and read Matthew 21:1-11; and Luke 19:28-40.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What directions did Jesus give to two of His disciples? (Matthew 21:2-3)
2. What is the prophecy saying the king would ride on into the city? (Matthew 21:5)
3. What acts of reverence did the crowd display as Jesus rode into town? (Matthew 21:8-9)
4. The crowd on the road to Jerusalem called Jesus “the son of David.” What did the crowds call him after Jesus entered Jerusalem? (Matthew 21:11)
5. What was the response of the owners of the colt? (Luke 19:33-34)
6. What was the response of the Pharisees upon Jesus’ arrival? (Luke 19:39)
7. How did Jesus address the request of the Pharisees? (Luke 19:40)

What do the passages mean?

1. Read Zechariah 9:9. Why do you think it was necessary to prophesy about Jesus' life? Why do you think people have a hard time believing Jesus is the prophesied king?

2. Laying down palm branches signified a king's triumphal entry after a battle, yet Jesus seems to refute the expectations of being a warrior king by coming in such a humble way. What was the crowd expecting of their long-awaited king? (Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 9:9-13; Luke 1:67-75)

3. How does humble servant Jesus far outweigh the warrior king for which the Jews were looking? (Psalm 145:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 7:25)

4. The crowd seems genuinely joyous at the coming of Jesus, something they had been waiting for centuries. What happened to the crowd of worshippers as Jesus was on trial and ultimately crucified? (Matthew 27:20-25; Luke 23:4-5, 21) Why did the allegiance change for some?

Applying the passage

1. Many of these worshippers were willing to pay homage to Jesus but did not devote their lives to him. Many consider themselves Christians but do not learn the character of their Lord, or what he requires of their lives. Would you say that you merely pay Jesus homage, or that you genuinely understand what the Lord desires of your life, and follow it to the best of your ability? What needs to change to make a life-long commitment a reality?

