

The Humble King

Matthew 21:1-11

3/15/08

Intro: This passage deals with Christ on His way to the cross. This event takes place 5 days before Passover. What will transpire in the following week will change the world forever.

There is great significance in this passage, it is recorded in all four of the Gospels and it sets in motion the final week of Jesus' ministry on earth and is a precursor to His crucifixion on the cross.

It's interesting that it is called the "Triumphal Entry", while it appears as a triumph, days later, the same crowds that are shouting praises, will be shouting "Crucify Him!"

Often times things don't appear as they seem...

Illus – Driving in Kenya...

The true triumph will be a week from this moment when Christ is resurrected from the dead. Often times God's heavenly plan doesn't match up with our earthly thinking.

Matthew 21:1-11

I. The Humble King Enters Jerusalem vv.1-7

- V. 1 Jesus knows that His earthly ministry is coming to a close and that it is now time for Him to be "lifted up", to go to the cross.
- Jesus and His disciples had been ministering in the Galilee region, then they headed south and came through Jericho, and now they are coming to the outer regions of Jerusalem.

- Bethphage is at the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives over looks the city of Jerusalem.
- V.2-3 Jesus tells 2 disciples to go into a village opposite of them, probably the city of Bethany, not far from Bethphage.
- Jesus describes in detail what they will find. In another Gospel we read that as they went they found it exactly as the Lord had described.
- V. 4 Matthew gives us insight into why this is all happening, why the donkey and her colt? It's captured in these words "this took place to fulfill..."
- Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy spoken of hundreds of years before He came to this earth.
- This was not a random event, but the eternal purpose of God was being played out.
- The Bible is a prophetic book, there are events like this that are told far in advance of them actually happening, and it is supported by history.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), taken to Egypt, raised in Nazareth (Matt. 2:6, 15, 23), all prophesied hundreds of years before this took place.
- He was a descendant of King David, who had been promised that the Messiah would come through Him (2 Sam. 7:16, Matt. 1:1).

- His ministry was prophesied as well (Isa. 61:1-2, Lk. 4:18-22)
- Even the way Jesus died was a fulfillment of prophecy, read Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, describing in detail these events.
- And the greatest of these, His resurrection “you will not allow your Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27).
- His birth, His life, His death and His resurrection all spoken of in detail before it actually occurred, this is no mere chance.
- The chance of Jesus fulfilling just 8 of the 300+ prophecies about Him is 1 in 10¹⁷.
- Why does God use prophecy? To show us a sign that this is His doing, this is the Messiah, the Savior of the world.
- John’s account (John 12:16) tells us that the disciples didn’t understand what was going on. I can imagine them asking, “Why do we need to get a donkey?”
- V.5 Matthew quotes from Zechariah 9:9.

Zechariah 9:9

- “Daughter of Zion” is speaking of God’s people in Jerusalem. They are told to “rejoice” and “shout in triumph” Why? Because their King had come.

- His title is given, He is their “King.” Again in John (12:13) we are told the people were saying that Jesus was the King of Israel.
- It describes how He would come, “Gentle and sitting on a donkey.” This word “Gentle” carries with it the idea of humbleness.
- Christ, the humble King, coming into Jerusalem.
- Jesus’ life and ministry are characterized by humility.

Phil 2:5-10

App – We have a lot to learn from the humility of Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30

App – Do you have rest in your soul? What yoke are you under? What burden do you have?

- V.6-7 The disciples do just as the Lord commanded and they bring the donkey and her foal, which had never been ridden.
- They place their coats on the animal as a saddle for Jesus.

Matthew 21:8-11

II. The People’s Response vv.8-11
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- V. 8 Others in the crowd begin to lay their coats on the ground, in honor of Jesus.

- Still others were cutting down branches, in John we are told that they used Palm Branches.
- Why the branches? Often these were used in welcoming a victorious ruler back home from a conquest.
- Palm branches were used for rejoicing as well (Lev. 23:40).
- V.9 There were crowds ahead of Him and behind Him shouting and praising Him.
- They were saying “Hosanna” This means “Save now we pray!” Asking Jesus to save them.
- “To the Son of David” This is a direct declaration of Jesus being the Messiah, their Savior. King David had been promised that the Messiah would come through Him, thus, to call Jesus “Son of David” is to call Him the Messiah, the Anointed One.
- “Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord”
- Jesus came in the authority and character of the Lord, as the representative of the Lord on earth.
- This is a direct reference to Psalm 118:25-26. It is a Messianic Psalm. Let’s turn to it.

Psalm 118:22-29

- As you can clearly see, this Scripture is speaking about Jesus Christ.

- The Pharisees hear what the crowds are saying and in Luke 19:39 they tell Jesus to rebuke them.
- Jesus says that if they kept quiet even the stones would cry out. Jesus receives their praise and honor.
- But did they really understand what was happening? Was Jesus the Messiah they were expecting?
- V.10 As Jesus entered the city it says that it was “stirred”, it was churned up, it was violently shaken.
- The question was asked, “Who is this?” Many in Jerusalem didn’t recognize Jesus.
- The answer to that question is a very important one. Who is Jesus?
- V.11 The crowd responds, “This is Jesus the prophet...” Their answer gives us a clue that they didn’t really understand who He was fully.
- Yes, in His earthly ministry, He fulfilled that role as a prophet, but He was so much more than that.
- Jesus would prove to be much different than the crowds expected.
- Even the disciples didn’t realize what Jesus was getting ready for, they didn’t realize what Jesus would have to face.
- Look at all the prophecy He fulfilled, the claims that He made. Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God the

Father to save this world from its sin. He is the Messiah.

App – Do you know who He is? That is the most important question we will ever have to answer.

Even if you've been a believer for a while, have you grown in knowing Him? Do you know Him more today than you did when He saved you?

Take some time this week, read the last chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, read as if it was your first time reading it, and learn more of who Jesus is.

Conclusion

Jesus continues to blow my mind, I want to learn of Him and His humility, I want to take on His yoke and experience His rest.

This week remember who the Lord is and learn of Him.