

20200405 Matthew 21:1-11 PALM SUNDAY - THE STONES THEMSELVES WILL CRY OUT!



PALM SUNDAY 2020 - THE STONES THEMSELVES WILL CRY OUT!

Today is Palm Sunday. In all four gospels this account chronicles the triumphal entry of Jesus into

Jerusalem. This happened the Sunday before His crucifixion. It is interesting that this is one of the few stories of Jesus' life that is in all four of the Gospel accounts. When we look at these four accounts together and in detail. We gain an understanding of why this was not only significant that day, but also why we celebrate Palm Sunday to remember what happened on that day.

It is funny how we think we know the story so well, but there are basic facts that we don't get straight unless we look at all four gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are what we call the "synoptic gospels". That word literally means "seen-together". They give a "synopsis" or similar "general survey or summary" of the life of Jesus. They summarize the details of how it all happened when Jesus came to earth. The Gospel of John is a much different so it is not included. The Gospel of John speaks of the transcendent divine nature of Jesus. John declares to the listening world, "Jesus was and is God. He is divine. He is nothing less. He is to be the object of our worship." He will present this fact and in John's account we will see the rulers of the day trying to hush up this worship. Jesus matter of factly states, "If these are not allowed to worship, the stones themselves would cry out!" Let me ask you this morning, "Do you love Him? Do you worship Him? Do you obey Him? Jesus tells us, "If you love me, you'll keep my commandments."

Please open your Bible and let's first read the account in Matthew. I am reading verses 1-11.

Matthew 21:1-11

1When they had approached Jerusalem and had come 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 there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. 3 "If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."



I think this is sort of interesting because this is the only gospel that mentions that there are actually two donkeys in the story. There is a mama donkey and her little colt or male son donkey. Some use the variances to try to dispell the scriptures as the inspired Word of God, but in fact these differences lend depth to the story and make it more believable. The differing facts don't counter one another, rather they complement one another making the story "thick", as we say

in law. A "thin" story is not believable. A "thick" story is believable. Let's read on.

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 5 "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'" (Zechariah 9:9)

These 2 verses are really interesting because they a reference to a prophecy found in the book of Zechariah. This is of course a Messianic reference and if you read the whole passage in Zechariah it speaks of a day when this King *"shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.'*

A donkey was a symbol of peace, and it doesn't make any sense for a King to come on a donkey. One would expect a King to ride in on a horse, a war horse, to bring justice to the nations. It is important to remember that during Jesus' first coming to earth he came as a Lamb, in fact as John the Baptist described Him, "The Lamb that takes away the sins of the world." (John 1) However, when He comes again, He will indeed be riding on a war horse, bringing justice to the nations. Turn with me please to the Book of Revelation to chapter 19, and let's read this beginning in verse 11 together.



Christ on a White 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. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.

Let's now carry on with our subject passage for the day. Go back to Matthew chapter 21.

6 The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, 7 and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. 8 Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.

The text tells us that the disciples went and did just what Jesus has instructed them to do. Do you and I do what Jesus tells us to do? I began thinking of so many things He asks us to do and we just ignore those instructions. During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a million things to be concerned about and to be worried about. What does Jesus tell us to do?

1 Realize you are not an orphan. You are not in this alone. You are a son and daughter of the God of the universe: ¹⁵ *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

2 Stop letting your heart be troubled. Jesus was very clear about this. He said, *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know."* (John 14:1-4)

3 Let the Holy Spirit teach you during these trying times. ²⁵ *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 1)*

4 Receive and experience His Peace. ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 1)* Don't let Satan steal your joy. Jesus was clear about His desire that we have an abundant life and He was clear that Satan is hell-bent on making sure you don't experience that life. ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)*

Verses 7 & 8 then tell us that the disciples and the people laid their coats out on the road so that He could pass over them.

And a very great multitude spread *their* garments in *the* way; others cut *down* branches from *the* trees, and strewed them out on the ground before Him (in the Gospel of John it specifically states that those were the branches of palm trees) ... So they laid down their branches and they laid down their coats. This reminds us that those that are determined to take *Christ* for *their* King, must *lay their* all under *his* feet. Have you laid down your all before Him? Do you just give lip service to Christ? Are you ALL IN in this thing of being a Christ follower? I have told you all over and over again that loving Jesus will cost you. It will cost you in your time, talents, and treasure. Applause and lip-service are not true obedience. They are a cheap substitute of giving Jesus your all and all. It reminds me of the lyrics to that beautiful worship song.

You are My Strength - By Dennis Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all
Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God worthy is Your name



Look at that phrase, "Lord to give up I'd be a fool." Don't give up friends. We are given great insight in scripture that many will decide to desert Him. Look at this passage in John chapter 6.

⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Brothers and sisters. We too have come to believe that He is the Messiah....the Son of the Living God. Let's not falter or waiver in this moment. You may be discouraged, dismayed, or downcast as mankind battles this virus, but do not lose heart. If you love Him, you will keep His commandments.

Let's now return to our text in verse 9.

9 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David;

**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;
Hosanna in the highest!"**

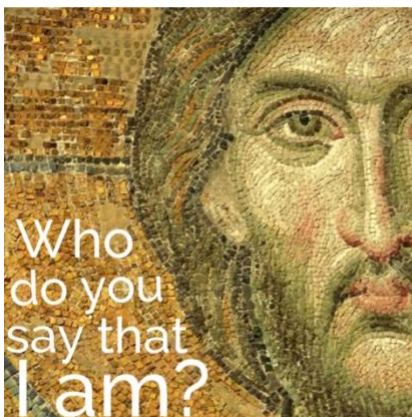
- 10** When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"
11 And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."¹



This is where it all gets so crazy. The crowd is in a frenzy. Some are crying out to Jesus because they want to be saved from the Romans. Some are crying out because they want the throne of David to be reestablished. I am sure that others were crying out because they wanted to be saved from their sins. It is interesting to try to figure out why they were crying out, but also what they were crying out. In English we say they were crying out "Hosanna in the highest!" So, what does the word **Hosanna** mean? Some

purpose in riding into Jerusalem was to make public His claim to be their Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of the prophecies of Zechariah and Isaiah. As we started our study in Matthew, it is clear that he is saying that the King coming on the foal of a donkey was the exact fulfillment of [Zechariah 9:9](#), "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a conquering King and He was as such by the people. This was Jesus' presentation of Himself as King not of a palace or a worldly kingdom, rather as the King of a spiritual kingdom. He received the worship and praise of the people because only He deserved it. From this point forward He would no longer tell His disciples to stay quiet about Him, rather, in the Book of Luke it is recorded, "But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." (Luke 19:40)



Unfortunately the very people that were praising Him as the coming King would be condemning Him to death by the end of the week. Why was this? How could this be? This is because Jesus did not meet up to the expectations that they had for Him. Most welcomed Him enthusiastically because they thought that He was arriving on the scene to give the Romans "what for". They saw Him as a messianic deliverer who would free them from the bondage of Rome. I am sure that a few in the crowd accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord.

The same thing happens today. Many proclaim Jesus as a "great moral teacher". Others look to Him to be their Genie in a bottle to provide magical solutions to their every desire. Those that pursue Him for such things are fair weather friends.

¹ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update](#). (1995). (Mt 21:1–11). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

They are here today and gone tomorrow. Be careful to not try to put Jesus in a box of your own making. He is God. He is Lord. He is Messiah. He is wonderful counselor, Almighty God, everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace". Give Him glory, honor, and praises this Palm Sunday. He and He alone is worthy to be praised.

Let us pray.