

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

TEXT: **Mark 11:1-11**

TITLE: **Palm Sunday**

Jesus has kept a tight seal on His identity up to this point, but no longer.

Some have called His march into Jerusalem 'a provocative entrance'.

Mark 11:1-7 When they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and told them, "Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here right away.'" ⁴So they went and found a colt outside in the street, tied by a door. They untied it, ⁵and some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They answered them just as Jesus had said; so they let them go. ⁷They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and he sat on it.

Jesus has walked everywhere, we never see Him riding anything (except a boat, but He even walked on the water)

But now, He deliberately chooses to ride in on an animal-

Why an unused donkey?

In the OT, an animal used for sacred functions needed to be one that had never been worked and a yoke never placed on them (Numbers 19:2, Deuteronomy 21:3)

This parade via donkey into town is significant for at least 2 reasons:

Prophetically:

- **The Rightful Ruler- Genesis 49:10-11** The scepter will not depart from Judah or the staff from between his feet until he whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to him.
¹¹He ties his donkey to a vine, and the colt of his donkey to the choice vine.
He washes his clothes in wine and his robes in the blood of grapes.
- **The Humble King- Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- **Son of David- 1 Kings 1:33-35** The king said to them, "Take my servants with you, have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴There, the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan are to anoint him as king over Israel. You are to blow the ram's horn and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵You are to come up after him, and he is to come in and sit on my throne. He is the one who is to become king in my place; he is the one I have commanded to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

The donkey was not a despised beast compared to a horse in ancient times.

When A King went to war he rode a horse; when he came in peace, he rode a donkey

Jesus is the rightful ruler; humble King' Son of david; ushering a Kingdom of peace

It's significant prophetically, but also for practical reasons:

If Jesus knows where in the town ahead an animal is, the condition of it, and the availability of it-
You and I can confidently obey even when it's not making sense

Because Jesus knows what I can't, I can obey what I don't understand

Mark 11:8 Many people spread their clothes on the road, and others spread leafy branches cut from the fields.

John is the only one that mentions that the branches are Palms (**John 12:12-13**)

Scholars point out that they were a symbol of the Jewish desire for independence and the overthrowing of tyranny- think stars and stripes

150 years earlier, Simon Maccabaeus entered Jerusalem after defeating Israel's enemies in battle, to the shouting of people and waving of palm branches

They are each acknowledging by their actions Jesus' Kingship

2 Kings 9:12-13 But they replied, "That's a lie! Tell us!" So Jehu said, "He talked to me about this and that and said, 'This is what the Lord says: I anoint you king over Israel.'" ¹³ Each man quickly took his garment and put it under Jehu on the bare steps. They blew the ram's horn and proclaimed, "Jehu is king!"

But those branches will wither, as will their commitment;
and whatever clothes they laid down, they will take back again

Mark 11:9-10 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted: *Hosanna!* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! *Hosanna* in the highest heaven!

Hosanna= Oh save us now

Psalms 118:25-26 Lord, save us! Lord, please grant us success!

²⁶ He who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Again, there is no doubt about what their thoughts on Jesus are

- Son of David- Messiah
- In the highest- Lord
- In the name of the Lord-(this was actually a blessing for the approaching pilgrim)
- Kingdom of our father David- King

But the people have misunderstood salvation- like many still do
The problem is not the Romans but themselves

"They preferred salvation from taxation to salvation of their souls – and so in a few days they would prefer Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus. Jesus could see that this was their mindset, and so in the midst of this praise, with people waving the palm branches like a national flag, Jesus wept." – Paul Wallace

Luke 19:41-42 As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it, ⁴² saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Jason Meyer- "They expect Jesus to judge the nations and save them.

They never would have expected that he would judge them and save the nations.”

Mark 11:11 He went into Jerusalem and into the temple. After looking around at everything, since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark raises the readers’ expectations that something grand will happen.... but nothing does!

Or does it?

We have to go back some ways to understand:

- The Lord’s glory leaves the temple
Ezekiel 10:18-19 Then the glory of the Lord moved away from the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. ¹⁹The cherubim lifted their wings and ascended from the earth right before my eyes; the wheels were beside them as they went. The glory of the God of Israel was above them, and it stopped at the entrance to the eastern gate of the Lord’s house.
- The Lord’s glory leaves the city and stopped on the mountain to the east (Mt of Olives)
Ezekiel 11:23 The glory of the Lord rose up from within the city and stopped on the mountain east of the city.
- The glory of the Lord returns from the East
Ezekiel 43:4-5 The glory of the Lord entered the temple by way of the gate that faced east. ⁵Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner court, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

Jesus enters through the east, from the Mt of Olives. Is He the fulfillment of the prophecy?

Yes and no. Yes He is the glory of God, but what He will find in the temple when He returns to inspect it is not suitable for God to dwell in.

So where is the fulfillment of the glory of the Lord returning to the temple?

It’s Him! He is the temple suitable for God’s glory to be among men (John 1).

And as what was in the temple was not worthy and ultimately destroyed, in His own body all of our unworthiness will be heaped and piled and He himself be destroyed, yet rise again (John 2:19)

Though Mark lets the tension simmer, there is much that was beginning to take place on that palm Sunday

He is carried by a beast of burden, but in a few days time, He will carry the burden of the cross

CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM

One day there will be a heavenly Palm Sunday

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

The rightful King has brought peace and salvation, at the cost of His own life

