

Online Easter 2020 Holy Week of Devotionals

Palm Sunday, April 5th

Jesus' Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem, [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

"When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reflection

Many know the story of the Lord Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey to the adulation of the crowds.

But not everyone knows that long before Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey another "king" rode a donkey into Jerusalem. And in this first King's entry, we uncover precious truths about the one who would follow as the one true forever-reigning King. This final entry into Jerusalem by Jesus had a special meaning. He came as a humble King of peace, not at all what we are expecting from a King. Traditionally, entering the city on a donkey symbolizes arrival in peace, rather than as a war-waging king arriving on a horse.

In spite of one of David's sons, Adonijah, conniving for a hostile takeover to become king rather than Solomon, God's promises were fulfilled, and Solomon becomes king. The Lord had promised David he would have an enduring royal dynasty ([2 Sam. 7:12-13](#)), specifically through Solomon ([1 Chron. 22:9-10](#)). David affirms his plans to crown Solomon ([1:28-37](#)) David gives his "royal donkey" to Solomon and parades him into Jerusalem from the Gihon Spring across the Kidron Valley. Solomon was anointed and enthroned in public with triumphant celebration before all the people ([1 Kings 1:38-49](#)). Solomon's entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey across the Kidron Valley and the Gihon Spring ([1:33, 38](#)) declares the true king. *This* one, *this* king on a donkey, is the true son of David. This is a foreshadowing of the king to come. On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus retracing Solomon's path across the Kidron Valley and entering Jerusalem on a donkey ([Matt. 21:1-10](#)). As a reflection of Solomon's entrance and coronation, Jesus's triumphal entry teaches us that Jesus is God's true son of David ([Matt. 21:9, 15](#)).

Today, we celebrate the triumph of the *one true* king to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. He enters to the praise of children and adults, reminding us that he and he alone is the only True King. It is worth noting the response of Jesus when some of the religious leaders saw the crowd of people shouting "*Hosanna, to the King*", they called for Jesus to silence and "*rebuke your disciples!*" Jesus replied and said, "*I tell you IF they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!*" (Luke 19:37-40) And then we see into the heart of our King as he cries over Jerusalem saying, "*if you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace but now it is hidden from your very eyes*". (Luke 19:41-42) And as He approaches Jerusalem on one of his first visits he cries out in sorrow, "*Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing*" (Luke 13:34-35) **Jerusalem missed the arrival of their long awaited King!** "*He came to that which was his own, but **his own** did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*". (John 1:11-12)

This Palm Sunday 2020 with all the uncertainty of our days, let us celebrate the retracing of Jesus's path across the Kidron Valley entering Jerusalem on a donkey as the king of peace. Today, let us celebrate the coronation of our True King as He makes His way into our hearts and lives to bring peace and wholeness to our lives and the hope of eternal life as our King of Kings. "*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*".

PRAYER

Lord God, in the midst of uncertainty of this season, on this Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus retracing Solomon's path across the Kidron Valley and entering Jerusalem on a donkey. We thank you for bringing peace into our lives. As we begin this holy week reflecting on your love, remove any and all distractions that might cause us to miss you this week. As we remember your passion and death, we commit to spend time each day reflecting on your word you're your unending love. We pray you open our eyes that we may prepare for your coming, truly surrender to you as King and praise you with a pure heart. We pray for those who may be suffering today that you might comfort them with your love and grant them your hope and peace. We offer our prayers through The One who lives and reigns with us through your Holy Spirit. Bring us your peace and light our way as you grant us your wisdom through Christ our Lord. Amen.