

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY – From Triumph to Tragedy

Introduction: On Sunday April 5th we celebrate what is called Palm Sunday. All 4 of the Gospels have a version of this story, and each adds some additional information. John's Gospel puts it this way.

John 12:12-18 - On the next day the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet Him, and *began* to cry out, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. And so the multitude who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb, and raised him from the dead, were bearing Him witness. For this cause also the multitude went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.

Hear we see Jesus being hailed as the King of Israel. A multitude of people came with Him but there were also many others who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Sabbath who came out to meet those coming in.

In Mark's Gospel and in John's that we just read we see Jesus doing something specific. **Mark** - And as they •approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He •sent two of His disciples, and •said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*."

Why the donkey? **Zechariah 9:9** - Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. A little over 500 years before Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, Zechariah predicts this would happen so Jesus fulfills this prophecy presenting Himself as Israel's King.

In Matthew and Luke we see Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. This is what Jesus says.

And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace!" In Luke.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling." In Matthew.

This is what Palm Sunday is all about. It's the triumphal entry that goes from Triumph to Tragedy. The people are hailing Him as King, as He enters and at least some people are Crying out "Crucify Him" just before He is sent to die.

So how does this happen? How in 5 days do things go from triumph to tragedy? There are several clues.

1. they **took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet Him, and began to cry out, " Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD,**
Why Palm branches? If you look at a modern coin from Israel you will find palm branches in all of them. You see the palm branch is and always has been a symbol of Israel independence. Waving palm branches in Israel would be like waving the American flag here in the USA. This indicates they were looking for a King. Someone to deliver them from the Romans. Look at what it says next.
2. **even the King of Israel."** You see in the Old Testament, particularly in Isaiah, we see two separate images of the Messiah. You have the suffering Messiah and the Kingly Messiah. Jesus came as the suffering Messiah, but the people were looking for the King.
3. **And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, " FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT."** So again I ask why a Donkey? Yes to fulfill prophecy but notice that the prophecy says **BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING,**. YES KING, BUT A KING WITH A DIFFERENT PURPOSE. IN SOME OF THE RABIES TEACHING THEY BELIEVED IF THE MESSIAH CAME ON A DONKEY IT WAS FOR PEACE, BUT IF ON A HORSE IT WAS FOR WAR.

NOTICE JESUS HERE COMES ON A DONKEY BUT LOOK AT THIS:

Revelation 19:11 - And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it *is* called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. Who is this, but Jesus.

**Luke 4:16-19 - And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written,
" THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."**

Jesus reads a piece of Isaiah that refers to Him, but he does something strange. He stops in the middle of a sentence! This is the line that finishes what He is reading.

Isaiah 61:2 - To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; All that Jesus read refers to what the suffering Messiah was to do, but the line **And the day of vengeance of our God;** refers to what Jesus will do when He returns, so He stops reading in mid sentence. Like I said He did not come to be the one who rules the nations with a rod of iron, He came to bring peace between man and God.

But lets back this up a little. This was a planned tragedy with a purpose in mind. Jesus knew where He was going and why He was going.

Luke 9:51 "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." The time approached for Jesus to be taken up to heaven. Jesus clearly knew what would happen to him soon at Jerusalem. Jesus would be arrested, tried, flogged, and crucified as he had prophesied. But he resolutely set up for Jerusalem. In King James Version of the bible, this verse is translated, **"he steadfastly set his face to go the Jerusalem."** Jesus was so determined to go to Jerusalem because he want to fulfill God's will there. Jesus would be the Lamb of God at Jerusalem in obedience to God.

Three times Jesus tells His disciples where He is going, and what is going to happen to Him when He goes there.

Matthew 16:21 – From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 17:22-23 – And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 20:17-19 - And as Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

His disciples try to talk Him out of going up to Jerusalem, but Jesus is determined to go.

John 11:6-8 - When therefore He heard that he was sick, He stayed then two days *longer* in the place where He was. Then after this He ●said to the disciples, " Let us go to Judea again." The disciples ●said to Him, " Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"

Peter rebukes Jesus about His prediction of His own Death.

Matthew 16:22-23 - And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, " God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Why does Jesus tell Peter **you are not setting your mind on God's interests?** Because this was God's will for Jesus.

Isaiah 53:10-12 - But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Isaiah predicts God's plan, and Peter in His first message speaks of the death of Jesus being God's **predetermined plan**.

Acts 2:23 - this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

So this was God's plan all along. This is why Jesus said what He said to Peter. **But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me;** Because here, not understanding God's will, Peter is actually encouraging Jesus to take another path from the one God has for Him.

So this is what Jesus did. He carried out God's predetermined plan for Him to **give his life as a ransom for many.**" As Matthew 20:28.

But why did He do it?

In Matthew Chapter 8 Jesus calms a storm that was about to swamp the boat they were in **And the men marveled, saying, "What kind of a man is this.** This is a reasonable question. What kind of man **resolutely** sets out to go to a place where He knows He will be killed. The kind of man who lays down His life for those He loves.

John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.