

Palm Sunday Reflection

by

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When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

*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; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

*Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed in 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?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday is a significant day in the Christian calendar, as it marks the beginning of the Holy Week leading up to Easter. This day commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11. This passage portrays Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while a large crowd of people lay their cloaks and palm branches on the ground before Him, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded of the humble and triumphant nature of Jesus Christ. He did not enter Jerusalem on a horse, a symbol of power and might, but instead chose to ride on a donkey, a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus came not as a conquering king, but as a servant who would give His life for the salvation of humanity.

The people who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem recognized Him as the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of David, who would bring salvation and deliverance to Israel. They cried out



"Hosanna," which means "save us," acknowledging Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday, let us also acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Let us lay down our cloaks and palm branches before Him, recognizing Him as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Let us cry out "Hosanna," asking Him to save us from our sins and to reign in our hearts and lives.

Let us also remember that Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was just the beginning of His journey towards the cross. He knew that He would soon face rejection, suffering, and death, but He willingly went to the cross for our sake. He endured the pain and agony of the cross so that we could be saved and have eternal life.

As we journey through Holy Week, let us reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. Let us remember that His death and resurrection give us hope and new life. May we be filled with gratitude and praise for the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.