

CAPITOL STUDIES

MARCH 29, 2023 • WEEK 12



JOSEPH: THE CIVIL SERVANT FROM EGYPT

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Verse of the Week

Mark 11:9b-10a

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!”

The Triumphal Entry



IF YOU HAPPEN TO WATCH FOOTBALL, you know the value of “instant replay.” Let’s say that an official has just thrown down the yellow flag. He indicates that the ball carrier stepped out of bounds or that the pass receiver did not get both feet down before stepping out of bounds. The “instant replay” will usually clarify the facts. Not only are we able to see the play in slow motion (and stop the play at the critical moment), but we can usually see it from several camera angles. This is what the four Gospel accounts of our Lord’s life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) provide for us. By reading and comparing all the Gospel accounts of the same event, we can view it from several angles. Every one of the four Gospels has an account of Jesus’ so-called “triumphal entry.” Each account has its own details, its own emphasis, its own significance. These differing accounts are of great value to us as students of the Bible. Let’s begin with one of them.

Pastor Arin Hess
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We are taking a break from the study of *Joseph: The Civil Servant from Egypt* to prepare for the Passion Week of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, ²and 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. ³“If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. ⁵Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission. ⁷They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸And many spread their coats in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

INTRODUCTION

Whether Jesus was acting upon His divine omniscience or whether He had prearranged to acquire the animals we do not know. But we clearly see Jesus exercising His divine authority in a definite plan ultimately leading to the cross. Verse 3 entertains the possibility that someone might question the taking of the animals. Jesus tells His disciples to respond, “The Lord has need of it,” and the owners of the animals will immediately send them. What Christ needs is provided, and the two disciples return with the donkey. Jesus then begins what we call His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Let us look at the glorious scene, the day we remember on Palm Sunday.

I. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

A. To Fulfill Messianic Prophecy

The scribes and Pharisees prided themselves on their knowledge of the Scripture. Jesus basically said if they truly knew Scripture, then they would know that He was the Messiah. “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me” (John 5:39). He perfectly fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies announcing the Messiah.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.



Psalm 118:26

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

Psalm 118:26 was repeated by the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem. The words of Scripture are true and will always be fulfilled:

Matthew 5:18

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law [Scripture] until all is accomplished.

B. To Deliberately Enrage the Religious Leaders

In John 7, Jesus repeatedly says His time is not yet come. When we get to John 12, Jesus says, “The hour *has* come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” The religious leaders cannot take Jesus until it is His time. He forces the Sanhedrin to change their timetable to harmonize with His Father’s timetable. His hour has come—it is time for Him to fulfill God’s plan for salvation—His life will not be taken; it will be given (John 10:18). God uses even those who oppose Him to work out His plan of redemption.

C. To Publicly Declare That He Is God

When the whole multitude begins to praise God and quote Psalm 118:26, “Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’ But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out”” (Luke 19:39-40). God wanted His Name glorified, and He wanted the people to remember this after Jesus’ death. “But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again” (John 12:27-28).

II. THE POVERTY OF HIS COMING

A. Jesus Was Not a Political Leader

The Jewish people had earthly ideas of their Messiah—one who would establish an earthly kingdom—one who would crush the rule of Rome. Typically, a victorious king rode into the conquered city on a white stallion wearing royal robes while people waved palm branches. Jesus is not a political leader. He has no royal robes because His kingdom is “not of this world”(John 18:36).

B. Jesus Came as a Humble Servant

He was born into poverty (in a stable). His parents brought turtledoves when He was presented to the Lord as a baby (Luke 2:22-24). This would indicate that they did not have wealth.

Matthew 8:20

Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”





His poverty and lowliness are demonstrated in His entry upon a “young colt”—not a great white steed as a man of war but upon a borrowed beast of burden.

C. Jesus Came as a Suffering Servant.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

As the prophet Isaiah foretold, Jesus did indeed come to suffer and die for us.

III. THE PAGEANTRY OF HIS COMING

A. A Great Shout in the Streets

Jesus rides toward Jerusalem upon the lowly donkey. Great crowds begin to gather. Some cut branches from the palm trees and others spread their outer garments to line the way. As Jesus rides, shouts of “Hosanna” rise from the crowd. “Hosanna” is a Greek writing of the Hebrew “*hosi’ah-na*” meaning “Save now” (Psalm 118:25). It is an imperative, a cry for help. In time it became an acclamation, much like the Hebrew word “*hallelujah*.” The cry is addressed to Jesus as “Son of David.” There is no doubt in the minds of the faithful that this Jesus is the Messiah, the heir to the throne of Israel’s great king. This is confirmed by the exclamation, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” This sentence was the priestly blessing given to the king as he led his people to the temple sanctuary to offer praise to the Lord, but now it comes to be a praise to God for the coming of Messiah. Jesus is widely recognized by His followers as “the Coming One.” And so, when the people repeat their “Hosanna” to God in the highest, it is like saying “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14), except it is a call for deliverance. They are praising God for sending them the Messiah, the Savior of Israel. We, too, cry, “Hosanna, save now! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

B. An Indignant Entry into the Temple

The day after His arrival in Jerusalem, Jesus enters the temple with an authority unknown and throws out the money changers, shouting, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations. But you have made it a robbers’ den!” (Mark 11:17). He overthrows the money tables and chases the animals from the sanctuary. Jesus is righteously angry at the blasphemous way His Father’s house is being used to swindle the people. There are times when it is right to be angry. “Be angry, and yet do not sin” (Ephesians 4:26a). How can we do that?



IV. THE PERCEPTION OF HIS COMING

A. Different Perceptions of Jesus

Many are following because they perceive Jesus as a prophet.

Matthew 21:10-11

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."

Others follow because they perceive Him as a political Messiah. They want their own king to rule.

Mark 11:10

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.

Still others follow because they believe He can fulfill their selfish desires. Maybe He will be a king that will make life more pleasurable by removing the cruel Roman rule. Perhaps He was someone who could perform miracles for them.

John 6:26

Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."

Many come simply because of the excitement of the crowd. They don't even know Jesus. It should be noted that a great crowd is following Jesus. We see large congregations today. Music pounds, and there is much excitement. But often Christ is missed in all the excitement.

Matthew 21:8-10

Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees, and spreading them in the road.⁹ And the crowds [were] going ahead of Him...¹⁰ And when He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"

The Pharisees have a far different view. They believe Jesus is a deceiver and are beside themselves with envy. They are even willing to put Lazarus to death to save their religion and their positions. Sadly, many today have a religion but no relationship.

John 12:10-11

But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also;¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

John 12:19

The Pharisees therefore said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

B. Incorrect Perceptions of Jesus

Their perceptions were wrong; they missed the truth:





- Jesus Christ wasn't a meager prophet of Nazareth—He was God from on High.
- He wasn't an earthly political leader—He was the Lord of Lords.
- He didn't come to grant selfish heart desires—He came to redeem hearts and give eternal life.
- The crowd will never satisfy—Satisfaction comes only in truly knowing Jesus.
- Jesus was not a deceiver—He was “the Way, **the Truth**, and the Life.”

The world has a misconception of Jesus. They have only a vague understanding of the atonement provided for the sins of mankind. Jesus does not commit Himself to those who have a false understanding of Who He is.

John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. ²⁴But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, ²⁵and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

We must worship the Christ of the **Bible**. We must come in submission to the Savior, recognizing that we are nothing without Him. We have no hope of Heaven. One of the best pictures of this is Mary the day before the triumphal entry.

John 12:3

Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

She worships with gratitude, serves in humility, and gives with extravagance because she knows she owes Jesus everything. What an example for us!

The main reason people do not come to worship is because it isn't satisfying to them personally. However, true worship is *giving* more than *receiving*. Many are like Judas Iscariot who simply makes an outward appearance of following Christ. Inwardly, Judas was far from Jesus.

John 12:4-6

But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?” ⁶Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

Does Jesus truly have your heart? Of the great crowd following Jesus, few will remain less than a week later. The sad reality is this: many of the very ones shouting “hosanna!” will be the ones shouting, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” In the frenzy of the moment, they fail to see the truth of this King riding on the donkey. He is the eternal Son of God come to redeem His people from their sins.



V. THE PATH OF HIS COMING

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem begins an irreversible path to the cross. The people misunderstand His purpose. Their misplaced zeal enflames the hatred of the religious establishment who are bent on destroying Him. His Father's plan for salvation is unfolding. There is no turning back. Jesus' mind is fixed, and Calvary lies ahead. "Not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

CONCLUSION

Jesus did not come to be exalted but to be rejected. He did not come to sit upon a throne but to hang upon a cross. Even though, He had me in mind; He came to rescue **ME** from the eternal penalty of my sin.
Hosanna!

Pastor Arin Hess

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Joachim Neander, 1680, in German, based on Psalms 103 & 150
Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1863*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen how thy desires have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee!

*Praise to the Lord, Who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

**This verse was not in the original, but was added in some later versions.*



Theme Verse

Philippians 4:8

*Finally, brethren,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is right,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is of
good repute,
if there is any
excellence
and if anything is
worthy of praise,
dwell on these things.*

Questions to Consider:

- Jesus puts His finger on everything in the universe and says, “mine.” What parts of your life are resistant to that lordship? Pray against the disconnect between calling Jesus, “Lord,” and living under him as Lord.
- Does your life bear fruit in keeping with repentance? Have you repented of your sin and called upon Jesus to rescue you from its punishment and control?
- Have you given entrance for Christ to enter your life?

FOOTNOTES

All Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, 1995 Update.

Personal Study Notes



Serving Civil Servants With Scripture

Capitol Studies™ exists to serve kings for the King of kings until His glorious return. We are privileged to minister to Civil Servants at all levels of government for their good and God's glory. Capitol Studies is led by Pastor Arin Hess, who has over 40 years of ministry experience in the State of Nebraska and Washington, D.C.

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