

Come And See Part 5

The Triumphant Entry

Mark 11:1-11

Memory Verses: **John 12:13**

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In **Matthew 28:6** the angels tell the ladies at the tomb, “he is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” For the last month we’ve asked you to come and see the story of Easter; the story of Christ’s last week on this Earth before he was killed on a cross and rose from the dead. Come and see the last supper where Jesus washed his disciple’s feet and gave us the holy sacrament of communion. Come and see the prayer in the garden where Jesus through tears of blood prayed for you and me to escape the temptations of this world and be a unified church. And come and see, as we did last week, the trial where Jesus was betrayed, falsely accused, beaten, declared innocent, and still sentenced to death.

This week, this Palm Sunday, we beckon you to come and see the triumphant entry. Let’s read Mark’s account in **Mark 11:1-11**.

When you read this account, there are a couple of things that should stand out to you, but the theme that stands out from them all is this idea of worship. Jesus shows up on the scene and it’s almost like the crowd can’t control themselves, they have to worship Him.

We’ve all heard the stories of ladies fainting in the crowd when Elvis came onto stage or the Beatles started playing. We all know what it means to be star-struck. Some of my favorite videos are those of superstar celebrities surprising fans. There’s this one where Jimmy Fallon and The Rock are dressed in huge mascot style costumes of themselves taking pictures with fans but then they take off their masks and reveal that it’s really themselves in the costumes. You should see these guys when they see that it’s really the Rock. They can’t speak, they start stuttering, they fall apart. Let’s take a look at the **video**.

My struggle comes in when I realize that If I met some of my favorite superstars like Cam Newton or Harrison Ford or LeBron James I would act the same way... I would totally be star-struck and make a fool of myself. And I compare that to the way I would act if I was in the crowd when Jesus comes riding in on a donkey. Am I going crazy over Jesus the way I would be going crazy if I met a celebrity?

Bill O'Reilly in an interview once said, "Jesus of Nazareth was the most famous human being who ever lived on this planet, and he had no infrastructure, and it's never been done. He had no government, no PR guy, no money, no structure. He had nothing, yet he became the most

famous human being ever." As we look at the triumphant entry this Sunday I want us to contemplate... **Does your worship of Christ show others how famous He is?**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here in the text is that.... **We Should Lift Him Up As The Triumphant King of Peace.** The first thing we see in this particular event of the Easter story is that Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey. We see this in **Matthew 21:1-7, John 12:12, 14-16, and Luke 19:28-35**. My question and probably yours is... why a donkey? It's a very unique animal and it must have significance. In my study I discovered four reasons Jesus rode into the city on a donkey.

First, it shows that this is a scriptural matter. **Zechariah 9:9** which is referenced here, prophesies that the messiah would come riding on the colt of a donkey. Jesus had to ride on a donkey to fulfill prophecy. This one detail reveals to any who know their messianic prophecies; know their scriptures, that this Jesus is indeed the messiah.

Secondly, it shows that this is a Sacred moment. The gospels tell us that this colt had never been ridden on. In the Old Testament in **Numbers 19:2** and **Deuteronomy 21:3** we see that in order for an animal to be used for sacred purposes, it could not be used for ordinary purposes. It is a beast of burden that has never carried any burden. It was reserved for Christ.

Thirdly, it shows that this has Supernatural means. God is fully in control of this event. Jesus knows when and where the donkey would be, and he knew that the owners would be willing to part with him. Donkey's were very valuable. To borrow someone's donkey was like borrowing someone's car. The fact that these men were willing to give the donkey away to people they didn't know for an event that they didn't understand is nothing short of the hand of God.

Fourthly, it shows that this has Symbolic meaning. Throughout Israel's history, kings would traditionally enter into a city riding on a horse only during times of war and only on a donkey during times of peace. Jesus entering on a donkey shows that this is the return of the king. Just like the kings of old rode through the city on a donkey, Jesus now rides as David's heir. Jesus entering on a donkey also shows that he has come to bring peace.

Add to that the fact that Jerusalem means City of Peace and that the palm branches that were laid before his feet were known as symbols of peace. Even though Jesus is about to endure the cross; one of the greatest physical battles any human has ever had to face he isn't trying to defend himself, he tells Peter to put away his sword, and he isn't trying to defeat his enemies, he is in broad daylight, vulnerable, and humble. He is the exact opposite of Muhammad, who when he entered into Mecca came riding on a war horse, surrounded by 10k armed soldiers, and slaughtered anyone who

dared speak against him. Jesus, the rightful king, has come to bring peace.

Think about it; more than anything, the human heart and soul needs peace. The heart needs a peace that passes all understanding to help it make it through the struggles of this world. The only thing better than a life without trial is a peace that helps us to endure the trials without losing the joy of living. And, the soul needs a peace beyond this life; an eternal rest after the war of sin and flesh. The only thing better than knowing there is an after life is knowing that it is a better life. And, there's only one place to find peace for the heart and peace for the soul... Jesus Christ. When Jesus enters into the city of peace riding on the donkey of peace, the prince of peace is now fully realized as the king of peace. He is the only one who can bring peace to our daily fight against this world and its struggles, and He is the only one who can give us eternal rest and peace beyond this life. Jesus is the only one who can bring peace into our war torn existence and so we must worship him as such.

And how do we worship him as such? In the same way the donkey worshipped him; we carry him. We lift him up and carry him with us throughout our lives, proudly showing him off to all who would look. **Just as the donkey, carried our savior through the city, now we carry him with our lives.** Get this... we aren't the ones who should be in the spotlight, Jesus the one we carry is. So we should carry him where everyone can see that he is king and he alone can bring the peace we need! As you live your everyday life, do people see you carrying Christ high enough to be seen? **Does your worship of Christ show others how famous He is?**

The second thing we see here in this story is that... **We Should Lay Down All That We Have At His Feet.** Next we see the people all start to lay their clothes and palm branches at his feet. We see this in **Luke 19:36**, and **Matthew 21:8**. This act of humility and sacrifice represents two crucial things. First, as in the day of the kings the people would honor the king's entry by laying their cloaks down on the ground. Just as him riding a donkey into town showed that he was the king, the laying down of the clothes was the way the people responded in acknowledging him as king. Jesus is saying, "I am king," and the people are responding with, "yes, you are king."

It was their way of surrendering the authority of their lives to the king's rule. One of the greatest ways we can worship God is by surrendering all authority of our lives, physical authority, spiritual authority, financial authority, intellectual authority, to him. We lay down our authority acknowledging that he is in control and that his will is our command.

Secondly, laying down their clothes represents the fact that he is

far more valuable than anything we own. You must know that this was a very modest culture. To take off one's garments, even their cloaks, was a rare thing reserved for only the people they loved and respected the most. Clothes were also very valuable. To have more than two or three changes of clothes was very rare and reserved for only the richest people. This is why even after Jesus had bled all over his clothes, the soldiers still gambled for them. For people to lay their clothes on the ground for that donkey to walk over them was not only a huge sign of respect but also a sacrifice of one of their most treasured possessions.

It is quite possible that those who laid down palm branches instead of clothes had no more clothes to lay down. It shows that the people had given all that they could give. They gave their all to honor the king. A worship that reveals Jesus as the most famous one looks like this. It looks like giving all, like laying it all down before him.

People think we are crazy when we tithe 10 percent or more of our money to God and his mission. In today's economy, that's nuts. People think we are crazy when on top of that we give to people in need that we've never met through care portal. People think we are crazy when we, like the Porterfields, or the Sanfords, or the Dickinsons sacrifice our lives on the foreign mission field, in muslim countries, or hostile countries, or impoverished war torn countries, leaving behind the luxuries of America for the sake of Christ. It doesn't even make sense... unless it is in honor of the most famous one. **If we truly believe that Jesus is the most famous person we know, we, like the people on the road to Jerusalem, should roll out the red carpet and lay down all that we have for him.**

So the question remains for us: what is it that you have to lay at his feet today? As I was studying I came across this statement in the **Life Application Commentary on Matthew**; "The triumphal entry included a number of acts of respect. People shouted blessings and Old Testament phrases of praise to God. Some waved branches or placed them on the road. Many removed their coats and spread them under the colt's hooves. The people "rolled out the red carpet" for Jesus. Their spontaneous worship puts much of our worship to shame. How often in your church does the presence of Jesus cause a genuine stir? Are the "rules for worship" defined so narrowly that spontaneous expressions of praise for Christ are frowned upon? Also, lest we blame the church too quickly, how often does your experience with Christ cause you to want to praise? We can't blame the lack of praise for God on lack of opportunity. Certainly there are appropriate times for formal worship. But a genuine relationship with God ought to find expression beyond "official" structure. Do you use hymns and choruses in your private times with God? Do you look for opportunities to give thanks to God? What does "Hosanna" mean to you? What, in your experience, would be similar to spreading your coat for Jesus to walk on. Make sure your worship includes action and tangible expressions." **Does your worship of**

Christ show others how famous He is?

The third thing we need to see here in the triumphant entry is that... **We Cannot Keep From Shouting His Praise**. They see him riding on the donkey, they lay their clothes before him, and then they shouted praise to him. We see this in **Matthew 21:9-11, 14-17, John 12:13, 16-19**, and **Luke 19:37-40**.

What did they shout? Three main things. First, they shouted Hosanna. This is a greek phrase that means "please save us." You would not shout this to someone who did not have the means to save you. The fact that the entire city is shouting this phrase at Jesus is a declaration that they truly believe that Jesus is the only one who can save them. Now, they probably were saying this as a way of asking Jesus to save them from their current oppressors, the Romans, but that wasn't Jesus' plan. They wanted to be saved like Moses saved the Israelites from Pharaoh, but Jesus was there to save them from an enemy even more oppressive than the Romans. He was there to save them from their spiritual oppressors, namely sin, satan, and the fear of death.

Secondly, they shouted; "Son of David." This could not be mistaken as anything other than a declaration that they thought Jesus was the long awaited heir of David and thus the one who fulfills the prophecy of the Messiah. They are declaring that Jesus is the messiah, the one who comes from the Lord God. This is huge and cannot be overstated. There can be no misunderstanding here; the people of Jerusalem are with one voice declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This is the very same claim that they will condemn him to death for not a week later. Figure that one out.

Thirdly, John tells us that most of the crowd had come to see Jesus because they bore witness to him raising Lazarus from the dead. Here they are still bearing witness to that miracle. The more people who tell of this miracle the more people come to believe that he has power over the grave and death, foreshadowing his own death and resurrection.

In response to these accolades the religious elite try to shut it down. When you put all of these accolades and praises together you hear, "this Jesus is the long awaited Son of David, King of the Jews, and anointed one of God who will save us from our sins and raise us to new life!" Either they must believe it or they must try to quell it. They, look at the fact that the whole world is beginning to accept him and so they tell Jesus and his disciples to shut it down. Indignantly they ask Jesus if he hears what they dare to say? "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" Jesus responds with two Old Testament quotes. First he reminds them that in **Psalm 8:2** that the children will praise him and then he references **Habakkuk 2:11** reminding them that if people don't praise him, the stones will cry out.

Hosanna, Son of David, Savior... we must cry out! Listen, we have been called to worship Jesus. Not just with the way we carry him or with the way we lay down our lives before him. Yes those are of great importance. As we say in our core values, "authentic worship is a lifestyle of joyful obedience not reluctant observance." It is true, we think the way we live is the most significant way we worship our Lord. But we must use our words too! We must vocally support Jesus as our savior, king, Lord, messiah, healer, and life giver! We must let the world know that he is our Hosanna!

And when the world tells us to shut up we respond by telling them no. If Christ indeed has done something in your life, how could you ever stop talking about what you've seen him do? If he is the famous one, how can you not shout praises of adoration and honor to Him? **How can we jump around and shout for our sports teams that let us down all the time and not jump around and shout for our savior who never lets us down? Does your worship of Christ show others how famous He is?**

Application

The city of Jerusalem explodes in adoration for Jesus. They accept him as the Messiah and Savior. They lift him up on the donkey of peace and they lay down their possessions at his feet. This is the most correct response ever to the most famous person who ever lived.

But have we forgotten that he still lives. Have we lost sight of the fact that we no longer need to wait for him to arrive, he's here... in our hearts through His Holy Spirit. We can worship him anytime, and should worship him all of the time.

The application is clear this morning... we must worship him as he deserves. And so I have a few questions for you. How are you worshipping him? Let's just take the three examples from this morning.

How are you carrying the king of peace with your life? How does your daily actions reveal that Jesus is the famous one? What might you need to change about how you live in order to be a better representation of Christ's fame? What are you laying down at the feet of the messiah? What possessions have you given him? Are you tithing and giving offerings in honor of him? What are you holding onto that you should lay down for his fame? How are you vocally declaring his fame? Are you so quiet that those around you have never heard you praise him? Would those who know you know that you think Jesus is the most famous person in your life? Have you ever praised Jesus in public? How can you do a better job of vocally lifting up your savior?

Conclusion

Does your worship of Christ show others how famous He is?
Jesus is the famous one and he is worthy of your praise. Today, your response to him needs to reflect that as we sing the Great I Am!