

# THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

Agape Life Church

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*The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:12-19 (NIV)*

## I. Hosanna - Worship Him Who Saves

Josephus, the notable Jewish historian, estimated that over two million people were involved in the great Passover Feast. It is known that 256,500 lambs were slain at one Passover and that each lamb represented at least ten worshippers. Teeming multitudes from all over the world were flooding into the city to observe the Passover. The mass of people and the necessary housing and food arrangements to handle such a mass of people can hardly be imagined.

Those people in the crowd that day were shouting something that was far more significant than they realized. Hosanna, they shouted. Hosanna. This Hebrew word means "He who saves." They were welcoming their King. But this was not a king that would reign over Israel. **No, this King was far more important, far more powerful than any king on earth. It was an acknowledgment of power as well as a petition.** It was a prayer for deliverance though their thinking was probably from the Romans instead of from their slavery to sin.

**Core Point: Jesus enters Jerusalem and takes His place as Messiah to God's chosen people. The reception and worship was genuine but was far more significant than the multitudes understood.**

**Although most didn't realize it, they were honoring the King of heaven.** They were honoring the King of kings and Lord of lords. **They were honoring the King that would triumph over death. They were singing praises to the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world.**

Rulers usually came as conquerors riding on a prancing stallion. Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a white charger, but on a lowly beast of burden, not on a horse as a symbol of power, but on a colt of a donkey as a symbol of humility. He is the peaceful King of the people of God, not a revolutionary with political interest.

The crowd's spreading garments and palm branches on the road, as was often done in triumphal processions, is a hopeful acknowledgment of Jesus' kingship. Many were anticipating that Jesus' was coming to set up His reign in Israel's capital. This was a common way to welcome a victorious King when he would return from battle. These palm branches were also a symbol of joy and victory and were placed on graves as a sign of eternal life.

**Jesus cleanses the temple for a second time.** Matt. 21:12-17

There are two recorded occasions when Jesus cleansed the temple—the first time at the beginning of His public ministry, and the second time just after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem shortly before He was crucified.

## II. We Would See Jesus

*Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." John 12:20-21 (NIV)*

Oh that all would say that. Oh that we would all come into His presence to glorify and honor Him. What a difference it would make in our lives if we would say, "**We would like to see Jesus.**"

## III. What Do We Learn From This?

- Worship**, even when you don't understand everything.
- Allow His presence to keep your life pure.
- Know we are called to follow Him and His **example**.
- Look for His soon coming as the glorious King of Kings!

**Core Statement: I make it my desire to see Jesus in all of my life! I will worship and recognize His authority even when I don't understand everything. Hosanna, Hosanna to the King!**