

The Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

Turn with me as we go to the Gospel of Mark the 11th chapter starting in verse 1. The title of the message this morning is "*The Triumphal Entry*".

We come now to a most important section of the Gospels as Jesus and His disciples are approaching Jerusalem. Jerusalem is buzzing with people who are arriving for the annual Passover celebration.

Today, we celebrate this day as "Palm Sunday". It is called "Palm Sunday", because the Gospels tell us that the crowds in Jerusalem threw their cloaks on the ground and put palm branches in front of Him on the road to greet Him as King.

Our Savior is knowingly entering the final week of His life. In just a few short days, the crowd will turn against Him and crucify Him.

But today is the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Mark 11:1-11 (NASB)

11 As they *approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage (Beth Fah' Juh) and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, ² 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*. 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." ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they *untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting:

"Hosanna!

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;

¹⁰ Blessed *is* the coming kingdom of our father David;

Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ Jesus 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.

Prayer

As Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem on a lowly, young donkey, we ask, "**WHY?**"

Why did Jesus arrange to enter the Holy city this way? Jesus, certainly did not need to ride, He has walked the entire way.

Why **did** He ride the last two miles into Jerusalem on a colt?

The answer is...that this was, of course, a symbolic action that was full of spiritual meaning. It was all intended to represent the fact that Jesus is coming into Jerusalem as a King. He was not coming as a sovereign earthly king to **take the lives** of His enemies with force. Instead Jesus is coming as a servant King to give His own life that He might **offer forgiveness** to His enemies. He came this way to visually convey that He comes with **humility** offering **salvation and peace** with God.

At His second coming, Jesus **will come** as the sovereign King riding a white horse, leading His armies in a day of war. But now, Jesus comes as the servant, riding a lowly colt, leading His disciples, not to war, but to witness.

It is somewhat ironic how this event depicts Christ as a servant King by riding on a young donkey instead of a war horse, but yet at the same time it shows His true power over His enemies. He is not at all afraid of them. Despite the fact that He knows that the Jewish leaders are plotting and scheming to kill Him, He publicly rides in defiantly for everyone to see. He puts Himself in the spotlight and everyone **has** to take notice of Him. He takes the initiative in His own hands. He even forces the issue. He knows that all of these enemies with all of their power cannot do anything without God's permission. By riding into Jerusalem publicly, He defies His enemies! HE IS THE KING!

This is the triumphal entry of God's Son doing the will of the Father.

THIS, now, begins the clock ticking for the final week of the life of Jesus Christ. This week begins on Palm Sunday with His entry into Jerusalem. It will conclude on Easter Sunday with His resurrection from the dead.

This final week is **SO** important that the **Holy Spirit** chose that all four Gospels give an enormous amount of space to the last week of our Lord's life. Jesus lived 33 years and His public ministry lasted over three years, but...

- Matthew devotes 1/4 of his Gospel to this final week. (Chapters 21 to 28).
- Mark devotes 1/3 of his entire Gospel to this one week. (Chapters 11-16).
- Luke gives 1/5 of his Gospel. (Chapters 20-24)
- John gives 1/2 of his entire Gospel to only this one week in the life of the Lord Jesus. (Chapters 11-21)

How important must this one week be in telling the story of the Lord Jesus Christ and presenting Him to us! When you add it all up, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John write a total of 89 chapters. Thirty of those 89 chapters (more than 1/3 of the entire Gospel

accounts) focus specifically and exclusively on this last week of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is like a concentrated spotlight that is shining on the persons and events that occur during this last week. All of this underscores the extreme importance of this last week. All of this will center upon the death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon Calvary's cross.

Let's proceed to our scripture reading and see what God has to say in His inspired Word.

BODY:

I. The King is in Control.

Jesus Christ was on his way to Jerusalem, knowing full well that this trip would end in his sacrificial death for the sin of humanity. Being fully human, it had to be a very agonizing time knowing the pain and suffering that He was about to endure.

Christ's mission was first and foremost to do God's will. What will happen in this final week is the very purpose that He has come into the world. The time is now here! The hour has now come for the Son of Man to lay down His life for mankind. This time has been planned since before the beginning of time. It was God's plan to send His Son to die on the cross as a Savior for man.

This is what Peter said in his sermon on the day of Pentecost to those who had shouted "**crucify Him!**" just 50 days earlier.

Acts 2:22-23 (NASB)

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³ this *Man*, delivered over **by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Jesus is totally in control of this week. In fact every molecule of creation for all time has been and will be in sovereign control by the authority of God.

Every action that will unfold will be scripted by God. God spares no details. The unusual arrangement to Jesus made to send two of His disciples to get a young donkey that had never been ridden.

These were done to convey to you and to me, beyond a shadow of any doubt, that every event, every person, down to the betrayal of Christ by Judas was **ALL** prescribed by the Father. It is the unfolding of the eternal purpose and plan of God for this week to rescue those who will believe in His Son from the curse of sin.

Jesus tells us...

John 6:38-40 (NASB)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** ³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ **For this is the will of My Father, that**

everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus will **NOT DIE** because circumstances got out of control. Jesus will **DIE** because God has **FOREORDAINED** that He will die for His sheep!

Thus we read starting at the end of verse 1.

Mark 11:1b-6 (NASB)

11...He *sent two of His disciples,

Note that Jesus takes the initiative here. The purpose is to show that Jesus is in control as He will lay down His life. In other words, no one took His life from Him. He gave it freely of His own will. Verse 2

² and *said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, (this is Bethphage (Beth Fah' Juh)) and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat;

Jesus opens up the future for them and tells them what they will discover in Bethphage (Beth Fah' Juh). These seemingly small events will convey and communicate not only that He knows everything, but that He also controls everything. It will be exactly as our Lord describes.

untie it and bring it *here*.

All that is required of the disciples at this point is "Just obey". You do not need an explanation why. Just do what the Lord says for you to do.

³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’

Jesus KNOWS that someone will say this to them.

you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’;

This gives some indication on how everyone in these cities knew of the Lord. They are aware of Jesus of Nazareth. They are aware of the miracles that He has performed, the parables He has told, and the lessons He has taught. He is the TALK of the country.

and immediately he will send it back here.”

Jesus intended to have this colt to sit upon for His grand entry into Jerusalem. He had no fear that the disciples would not find it, or that the owners would not allow them to take it, or that the young donkey would be unruly. He was just fulfilling the will of God. The prescribed activities that were to occur.

Matthew tells us that this was actually the fulfillment of prophecy. Zechariah 9:9 predicted the coming of the Messiah over 500 years earlier.

Zechariah 9:9 (NASB)

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.

Jesus would not come in a royal chariot. He would not come with horses and soldiers surrounding Him. He would not come with swords drawn.

Now He comes as the servant of God on a borrowed young donkey. This was in perfect harmony with his purpose for coming to earth.

Philippians 2:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

If you want to see what this looks like, you need only to look at His triumphal entry.

⁴ They went away and found a colt (Imagine that! A colt. Just as Jesus said.) tied at the door, outside in the street; and they *untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission. (Of course they did! Because Jesus said they would.)

Isn't it wonderful to know that He knows the future? That God is not making these things up day by day? That nothing takes God by surprise? That God is not having to continually alter our plans for us and go to plan B or C or D?

This is supernatural knowledge at work. This will bolster the hearts of the disciples. They will see Jesus in full control throughout these troublesome days. Every detail has been planned by God.

The place. The time. The donkey. The owners. The executioners. The betrayal. Everything. It is now unfolding just as the Lord described. And this is JUST the tip of the iceberg.

This whole week was set up by God. Hundreds of prophecies were fulfilled just in this final week to leave no doubt that Christ truly was the Messiah.

This leads us then to verses 7-10.

II. The King is Coming!

Mark 11:7-10 (NASB)

⁷ They *brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.

The crowd was finally realizing that at last God's anointed King and Messiah had come. As Jesus is proceeding into the city, the expectation level is at a fever pitch. The people begin

to take off their coats and cut palm branches and was building a carpet on the path in front of Him. This was their Messiah, this was their time, this was their moment.

Jesus has taught the truth with authority. He has healed and restored the sick. He has just raised Lazarus from the dead. The entire place is lit up like a bonfire with enthusiasm and expectation.

The long awaited hour has now come! The Messiah from God has come to us! They are receiving their King with open arms.

⁹ Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting:

The group in the front were those who were in Jerusalem and the those who followed were the ones who had followed Jesus into Jerusalem from Bethany. It is a moment of euphoria.

- They believe now that their moment of political deliverance has finally come.
- He will restore the nation to Israel.
- He will throw off the Romans.
- He will reign and prosperity will come to them.

They are shouting and note what they are saying.

“Hosanna! (The word Hosanna means "Save us!" They know that the person riding on this colt has the power to rescue them.)

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; (This is a direct quote of scripture. They know by chapter and verse. This is Psalm 118:26. They have sung this at Passover after Passover after Passover. And now the time has come for this reality.)

¹⁰ **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David;
Hosanna in the highest!”**

The King is here. He will establish the kingdom!

They are ready to walk on water with Him, but the problem is they are wanting a **political** kingdom. They are wanting a financial bailout. They are wanting Jerusalem restored back to its glory days.

It has nothing to do with the condition of their hearts. It has nothing to do with them one day standing before God.

They could not see a suffering Messiah who had come, not to dominate, but to DIE on a cross at the hands of the Romans! The very ones they are wanting Him to overthrow!

This King is unlike any king that has ever been or will ever be again. This King came not to be served but to serve. He came to give His life as ransom for many.

In just a few days, the crowd's excitement will turn to anger and they will nail Him to a cross!

III. The King's Authority

Mark 11:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Jesus 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.

Jesus has now entered the city. Luke gave us some additional insight about Christ's state of mind when He approached Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41-42 (NASB)

⁴¹ When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,

He saw the city and wept!

Over dead religion, over the empty rituals, over the unbelief, over the vanity of the people, over the stronghold that the darkness had on this city. This their day of receiving their King. They are in unbelief. And Jesus wept over it.

⁴² saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

Their hearts are being hardened by God and rightfully so. They are singing "**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord**" and they do not know the Lord nor the One by whom the Lord was sent. He comes and sees the spiritual bankruptcy of the city. He will be crucified and it literally breaks His heart. Tears begin to flow as He weeps over the city.

We read in verse 11 that He has now made His way into the city.

His ears are filled with the Hosannas. His eyes behold the multitudes.

Josephus tells us that, in the immediate future, there will be 265,000 lambs slaughtered. There could be up to one lamb for every ten worshippers. It has been estimated that some two million people have descended upon the Holy city to celebrate the Passover. The entire nation has been shaken down into the city. As Jesus enters the city, He sees hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people who have forsaken the Word of God.

He came directly into the temple. In the past, Christ had come into the temple to celebrate Passover. It is into the temple that Jesus went in John, chapter 2.

(Crescendo) And He saw how...

- They had made the temple into a house of merchandise.
- and how They had corrupted His Father's house.
- John tells us how Christ was filled with zeal and righteous indignation.
- And how this one man took on the nation single-handed.
- and He went into the massive temple and by the sheer strength of His own sovereign convictions, He, by His own hands, overturned the tables of the money changers.
- AND HE PHYSICALLY **THREW** THEM OUT OF HIS FATHER'S HOUSE!

- **FOR YOU HAVE MADE MY FATHER'S HOUSE (pound on pulpit twice) A DEN OF THEIVES!**

Our...Lord...now...comes back **to the temple!**

- To audit the temple.
- To inspect the temple.
- To survey the temple.
- and WHAT will He find when He looks into the temple?
- He will see the same corruption
 - of Dead Religion.
 - and the compromising of the Word of God.

Need I remind you that **our bodies** are now the **temple of God**. We had best start cleaning our temple!

Note looking at verse 11, "**and after looking around at everything, He departed**".

Christ will return again. This gentle, humble, servant will come again. And this time HE WILL CLEAN HOUSE AGAIN! That is for a later time, but for now "**He left for Bethany** (two miles down the road) **with the twelve, since it was already late**".

Lest there be a premature conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders of Israel, Jesus withdraws knowing that Friday is the day of confrontation. Friday is the day of conflict. Friday is the day that they will call for His crucifixion. It MUST BE on Friday!

He backs out of the city. He withdraws to Bethany.

Let us **not** be like those in that crowd that day.

- Let us be true believers, who in faith, embrace Jesus Christ.
- Let us not merely SING to the Lord.
- Let us not merely PROFESS His name.
- Let us not merely put our coats and palm branches in front of Him.
- Let us incline our will to Him.
- Let us **genuinely** love Him and put our trust in Him.
- Let us receive His salvation that He has freely given to us.

CONCLUSION:

ILLUSTRATION:

Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom (April 15, 1892 – April 15, 1983) was a Dutch Christian who, along with her father and other family members, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. She was imprisoned for her actions.

She was once asked if it was difficult for her to remain humble. Her reply was simple. "When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments on the road, and singing praises, do you

think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?”

She continued, “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in His glory, I will give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Friends, at best we are just a lowly donkey serving Jesus. Lest any of us think that any praise or any glory is going to us, we must remember that it is ALL going to the One who rides in our hearts by His grace.

Let none of the praise go to our heads because **apart from Him, we can do nothing!**

I am who I am by the grace of God.

LET US BE FAITHFUL DONKEYS!

If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior, the window of opportunity is open for you now. God wants to come into your life. If you have not been baptized into Christ, won't you come forward this morning and let God know that you are ready to turn your life around for Him and start obeying His commands?

God Be with You till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet...Till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet...Till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.