

# The Gospel of John Jesus Enters Jerusalem

## John 12:9-19

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with John's Gospel. The text that we are looking at usually gets addressed on Palm Sunday; we call it the Triumphal Entry. It is when Jesus enters Jerusalem, riding on a young donkey, and the multitudes gather to meet Him as He approaches.

### All Stand and Read Scripture

#### **John 12:9-19 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel." <sup>14</sup> Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt." <sup>16</sup> These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. <sup>17</sup> So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. <sup>18</sup> For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

### Prayer

### BODY:

#### **I. INACCURATE EXPECTATIONS.**

The Jewish leaders and their followers had inaccurate expectations of who and what the Messiah was going to be.

They see Jesus as a physical Savior, who is going to end Roman oppression, and end economic inequality. They didn't realize that Jesus was coming, and that He was going to die, in order to save them from the wrath of God. That He was coming to set them free from sin rather than political oppression. And that's why, in the end, they rejected Him, and turned on Him.

That is a theme that we have seen over and over again in John's Gospel.

**John 12:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead.

The word got out, as you remember, that Jesus had arrived. He was the most important person at Passover. He was the most important person in the country. He was the person everybody wanted to see because He cast out demons, He healed, He created food, and He even raised people from the dead. There had never been and never will be anybody like Him. They wanted to take every advantage of the opportunity to be a part of what He was doing in a miraculous way.

**John 12:10-11 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

The chief priests wanted to execute Lazarus because his testimony was so effective that the Jews were abandoning the temple religion and heading toward believing in Jesus. This miracle had a massive impact at the final moment of our Lord's public ministry. In the dark, later in the week, He will restore an ear, but that was a very private miracle in the darkness of the garden. This is the great culminating public miracle.

There had been times before when the chief priests would have wanted to crown Jesus as king, but He didn't allow it to happen.

Back in chapter 6 after He had just created food to feed maybe 20,000 people plus in Galilee.

**John 6:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

In chapter 8, Jesus goes into the temple treasury in Jerusalem and taught there.

**John 8:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

His hour had not yet come. When they had heard all that they could stand they attempted to stone Him.

**John 8:59 (NASB)**

<sup>59</sup> Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Sometimes He removed Himself. Sometimes they were restrained by divine power because it wasn't His hour, but now His hour has come.

**John 12:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus \*answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Now it is His hour. It is His hour because it is now God’s will for His time to arrive.

All of the events leading up to this Passover have been purposely carried out for this occasion. He sets it up by healing Lazarus and raising him from the dead. He comes to Bethany, the point of that miracle, days or maybe a few weeks earlier. He lingers there. He remains there to draw the crowd to see Him raise Lazarus and to strengthen the testimony of that miracle. He deliberately sets Himself in a situation to draw the largest possible crowd of people, and a crowd comes on Sunday to Bethany and overruns that little village. Then another crowd packs the city of Jerusalem.

We’re talking hundreds of thousands of people in that city and this Passover season. He wants to generate the enthusiasm of the masses. He wants not only to be received for who He is, the King, even if it is only a fickle reception, but He also wants to magnify the fury of the leaders of Israel so that they will, against their own plan, wind up crucifying Him on the very day that God has ordained at the Passover.

The Sanhedrin did not plan to kill Him at a time when the city was overrun with pilgrims and at a time when He was the most popular in His entire ministry. But that’s exactly when they **would** crucify Him because that is when God had determined His crucifixion. So He comes to die. Let us now look at the triumphal entry and see **the presentation the Lord makes of Himself**.

## II. THE ACTUAL KING.

### **John 12:12-15 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, <sup>15</sup> “FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.”

He comes to Jerusalem and asks two of His disciples to go to a village and find a donkey and a donkey’s colt tied to the post and bring them to Me. When the disciples reached the village, they saw exactly what Jesus said they would see. They start to untie the animals to take the animals with them, and the owner comes out and says, “What are you doing? Why are you taking these animals?” You remember their answer? They said, “The Lord needs them.”

That should indicate to you that whoever was the owner of that house and those animals knew the Lord. They were eager to provide for Him whatever He asked for. The disciples took off their outer cloaks and threw the outer garments over the colt and over the mother of the colt and brought them to Jesus.

Jesus chose the colt to ride and not the mother. Why the two? Jesus wanted to come into the city in humility. He didn’t even ride the older more mature animal. He rode the weaker, younger animal. The mature animal was brought along to lead the young colt because the colt will always follow his mother. This is the way Jesus could demonstrate the humility that was going to come His way during that week. As He approached the city and the crowd began to gather around Him, people spread their garments in front of Him,

like throwing down the red carpet. They spread their clothes in the path so that the little animal could walk along their garments, and then they would pick them up.

Along the way, others cut down palm branches and threw them on the pathway for their coming King. Jesus comes to Jerusalem and the enthusiasm of the crowd mounts. He is officially creating His own coronation. He is the Messiah. He is the King. He will not deny their hosannas. Later we are told, "If these people don't cry out hosanna, the rocks will cry out."

So you see they see Him as their king, their savior, their deliverer, their Messiah. Their hope and their expectation is that at any moment, this power over death that He exhibited, this miracle power will be exercised against Rome. The Romans will be crushed and Jesus will establish His throne and fulfill all of the promises through Abraham, David, and all the prophets.

### **III. THE VARIED RESPONSES.**

#### **The disciples?**

##### **John 12:16 (NASB)**

*<sup>16</sup> These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.*

All the way along, all week long, they're going to be confused. Thursday night in the Upper Room, they are all very confused.

They did not fully understand what was happening during the final week. They certainly did not understand why He was talking about dying. They even tried to rebuke Him for that in the words of Peter. They didn't understand why He was humbling Himself and washing their feet. He said, "I have to do this. This is part of my humiliation." When He said, "I'm going away," they panicked and Philip says, "Where are you going to go? We don't know where you're going. We don't know how to get there."

Even in chapter 1 of Acts, they were still lingering in the dark about the kingdom. "Are you going to bring the kingdom now? Is it coming now?" It was all very confusing to them until He was glorified. Then it all began to make sense. Why? Because previous to His glorification, what had He done? He had gone back to the Old Testament and taught them the Old Testament, all the things in the Old Testament about Himself. Remember, on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24? And then in the Upper Room in the night of His resurrection, He explained Old Testament prophecies that He had fulfilled in His death and resurrection, and it began to make sense. Then in Acts 2, right after His glorification when He ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit comes. Then they remembered that these things were written of Him and Jesus had taught them.

So even His own beloved disciples were confused. Then there were the believers.

#### **The believers?**

##### **John 12:17 (NASB)**

*<sup>17</sup> So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him.*

They were going to be among the few. So if the disciples were confused, how could we expect the eye-witness believers to feel. They were experiencing things they had never seen or felt before. Here was a man who was claiming to be God and He was performing miracles to prove it. They were convinced that He was the Messiah, the Son of God and were believing that He could save them and that what He was teaching was true. That the things they had been taught in the synagogues were not of God. But they were still under Old Testament law and Jesus had not died on the cross yet. They loved Jesus but they did not know what to do next. They were going to follow him wherever that may lead them. And their belief will lead them to the cross, the resurrection, and the Day of Pentecost when the Gospel would first be preached to them.

### **The crowd?**

#### **John 12:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.

The crowd is curious. They are fascinated. Why are they there? Are they there because they are interested in Jesus' teachings? No. They heard that He had performed this miracle. They are attracted by the supernatural and what may be in it for them. But on Friday they will choose Barabbas, a well-known criminal, to be released and Jesus to be held prisoner. Then they will scream for Him to be crucified.

### **The Pharisees.**

#### **John 12:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

Jesus was having a massive impact on people. Some with real faith, others who were only looking for supernatural experiences and events. These same people screamed for His crucifixion a few days later. It's really a testimony to the far-reaching reality of superficial faith.

They thought an earthly kingdom was coming. Jesus knew He was King over a spiritual kingdom. They thought they would crown Him. He knew they would kill Him. The King came to die, but by Sunday He came out of the grave. We have an eternal King. And because He lives, we will live and share His life forever.

## **CONCLUSION**

The good news is that everyone in Christ's time, regardless of their mindset during Christ's final week, will be given the opportunity to repent of the sins they had committed. Even if they were instrumental in putting Jesus on the cross. That is also true for us today.

So what do we learn from this passage? It is not enough to be faithful to your own beliefs. We cannot be so wrapped up in our own theology, as the Jewish leader were, that we refuse to read and follow God's Word in our lives. You must be certain that your beliefs are consistent with the Word of God.

Too many people today believe that if they just live a moral life based upon their rules for morality, that is good enough. That might include attending a religious organization regularly and faithfully.

You see, that is how the Pharisee's lived. They **thought** they truly believed in God and they thought that they were teaching God's message. When in reality they were only following and teaching their own man-made religion which had diverted from God's Word. They were demanding rules upon their followers that were not of God. They did not even recognize the Messiah when He came. Instead their expectations of the Messiah was so far off base that they actually killed Him.

Now let me ask you a question this morning.

Why does John give us example after example of people who apparently put their faith in Jesus, but later on we find out it wasn't real, true, saving faith? Well, he does this so that we can see the difference between the true and the false believer. The one crowd believed that Jesus was going to be an earthly king who gave them whatever they wanted: food and water, healing, and miracles on demand.

Jesus said, "No, following Me is about taking up your cross, not about having whatever you want." The crowds here in today's text believed that Jesus was going to be a king who ended social, political, and economical oppression, that Jesus would drive out the oppressive Roman Empire, and they would finally achieve their rightful place in the world. And once they realized that wasn't what Jesus was about, they wanted Him dead! They wanted Him crucified!

The purpose of Jesus' death was to justify man before a holy and righteous God. The Gospel is the good news that man can be reconciled to God, that man can be forgiven of his sin against God, that man can receive eternal life.

Jesus came to die on the cross for our salvation and to teach us how to live according to God's will. And it has been preserved in scripture so we can know what He taught us.

So what must we believe?

### **1 John 5:1-2 (NASB)**

5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

**This is the Day.**