

Introduction

For the past month I have been busy with preparations to move the contents of our office to Houston. I was notified that the Albuquerque office was going to be closed. So, I took down all the pictures and wrapped them with bubble-wrap. Then, I shrink-wrapped them in bundles. I took down all the tables. I went through forty years of records and threw out all non-essential tax and historical documents. Not only did I fill our dumpster several times, I took 500 pounds of confidential records downtown to Adelante to get shredded. I made travel arrangements, and rented a truck to take everything to Houston. I will load the truck on January 18, and drive to Houston on January 19. There were lots of preparations to be made before moving.

Once I arrive in Houston, there are a number of things that will take place there. First, there will be a team of people ready to help unload the truck. They will unpack and put everything where it belongs. I will return the truck, and then go to the Dollar car rental and pick up a car.

On January 21, I will depart from Houston and go to Covington, Louisiana, where I will get to see my fourteenth grandchild. I will also get reunited with Karen, who left here on December 16. I will be taking a two-week vacation with Karen and will return to Albuquerque on February 4. I have been busy planning that trip, making reservations and preparing for it. I did not get any time off this Christmas, and ended up working lots of overtime, so this vacation is much needed.

What does all this have to do with our text today? The text is about Jesus' Triumphant Arrival in Jerusalem, not closing down an office and moving it to Houston. That is correct, but in Jesus' Triumphant Arrival, there are three scenes. In the first scene, Jesus made preparations for His arrival. He told two of His disciples to go bring a donkey and its colt to Him. He told them where to find it, and what to say to the owner. In the second scene, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and Mark gave us a description of the activities that took place. In the third and final scene, Jesus departed from Jerusalem and went to Bethany with the twelve. We will be going through all three of these scenes in our text. Let's read the passage.

Jesus' Triumphant Arrival at Jerusalem

1. Preparation for the Arrival (Mark 11:1-6)
2. Arrival in Jerusalem (Mark 11:7-10)
3. Departure for Bethany (Mark 11:11)

(Mark 11:1-11) "As they *approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage 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."

1. Preparation for the Arrival (Mark 11:1-6)

Our text begins with Jesus approaching Jerusalem. Jesus has just ministered in Jericho, where He healed Bartimaeus' blindness and one or two others, and now there is a large crowd following Him. There are a lot of people going to Jerusalem from all over the world. This is the Feast of Passover, the biggest feast, and every Jew tried to go to Jerusalem for this feast. Some scholars estimate as many as two million people would be in Jerusalem at the Feast of Passover. There is a historical record dating back to 40 AD which states that 260,000 lambs were slain at the Passover in Jerusalem. If there was one lamb for every ten people, that would have put the total number of people around 2,600,000. I imagine that most of the roads going into Jerusalem were crowded with people.

(Mark 11:1) "As they *approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He *sent two of His disciples,"

In Luke 2:41-42, we read that Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. This is not Jesus' first time to go to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. He has been going there every year His whole life. Only this time it is a very different occasion. Jesus has been telling His disciples for weeks that He is going to Jerusalem, where He will be arrested, condemned, handed over to the Romans and crucified, and then be raised from the dead on the third day. Jesus is not going to Jerusalem to sacrifice a Passover Lamb; He is the Passover Lamb.

(Luke 2:41-42) "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;"

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples on an errand. Bethphage means house of figs. It is near the Mount of Olives. There was a wall around it. As someone interested in fruit trees and figs, it would make sense to build a wall around your fig trees. My mother has three fig trees in her front yard and people come by and don't think anything about going over and taking her figs without asking. I am sure that animals would also come and take advantage of all those figs, so a wall around it makes good sense. Today, the site is enclosed by the Roman Catholics. Next week we will pick up the text in Mark 11:12, where Jesus became hungry and saw a fig tree without any fruit on it. He said, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" The next day the disciples went by and the fig tree was all withered up. Jesus was at Bethphage, and there were undoubtedly lots of fig trees.

The other place mentioned is Bethany, which means house of dates. This is an agricultural area. There is a house of figs and a house of dates. Bethany is not really known for its dates; it is known because of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. In John 11, Lazarus was sick. Jesus took His time going there and by the time He arrived, Lazarus had been dead and in the tomb for four days. In John 11:35, Jesus was moved in Spirit when He saw Mary weeping, and He wept. Then, He ordered the stone to be removed, and He called out, "Lazarus, come forth." And Lazarus was raised from the dead.

(John 11:17-19) "So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. {18} Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; {19} and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning *their* brother."

(John 11:43-44) "When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." {44} The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many people in Bethany believed in Jesus. This angered the Pharisees and chief priests, so they convened a council to discuss it. They thought that if they did not do anything, people would follow Jesus and they would lose their place of authority and status with the Romans. God used the incident to speak through the high priest, Caiaphas, who unknowingly prophesied of Jesus' death for all the people. The Council determined that day to plan to kill Jesus. This gives a little background to our text today. Jesus has just returned to the place where His friends live, and where many people now believe in Him.

(John 11:45-53) "Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. {46} But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. {47} Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. {48} "If we let Him *go on* like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." {49} But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, {50} nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." {51} Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, {52} and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. {53} So from that day on they planned together to kill Him."

In John 12, we find that the chief priests also planned to put Lazarus to death. His testimony was causing many of the Jews to believe in Jesus. Jesus knows that He is going to be put to death. This is a place where He has some friends and many people believe in Him as the Messianic King. But, this is also a place where many people are planning to put Jesus and Lazarus to death.

(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."

As Jesus approached Bethphage and Bethany, He sent two of His disciples into the village opposite them. This would have been the village of Bethany, as Bethphage was a small area by the Mount of Olives, not a village. He told them that immediately upon entering it, they will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever sat. He told them to untie it and bring it. Then, He told them that if anyone asks what they are doing, they are to tell them that "the Lord has need of it." Then, the person will immediately send it back with them.

(Mark 11:1-3) "...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."

In Matthew's account we find that Jesus told the two that they will find a donkey there and a colt, and they were to bring both of them to Him.

(Matt 21:2) "saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me."

We do not know which two disciples the Lord sent to get the colt. He could have sent Peter and Andrew, who were brothers. He could have sent James and John, the two brothers that Jesus nicknamed as the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). Some scholars think that Jesus sent Peter and John because these are the two that He ordered to go and prepare the Passover meal.

(Luke 22:7-8) "Then came the *first* day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover *lamb* had to be sacrificed. {8} And Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it."

The two disciples went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. Some bystanders asked them what they were doing, and they spoke just as Jesus had told them. Jesus had told them the "Lord has need of it." The people gave them permission and they returned to Jesus with the donkey and the colt.

(Mark 11:4-6) "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."

There are a few points that I want to bring up before we go to the next scene. First, Jesus is omniscient. He knows all things. Jesus was the Son of Man and He was the Son of God. He is fully God and fully man. As God, the fullness of deity dwelt in Him in bodily form. Jesus has been telling His disciples for weeks exactly what is going to happen in Jerusalem. He knew which disciple was going to betray Him. Jesus knew about the donkey and the colt. He knew the owner would let them have it. He knew what the disciples needed to tell the owner. Jesus knew everything that was about to transpire. He knew who was betraying Him. He knew everything.

(Col 2:9) "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,"

Second, Jesus is the Word and He knew the Word. He knew all the prophecies in the Word, because He is the Word. He knew all the prophecies about His upcoming death in Jerusalem. He knew Zechariah's prophecy at the king would come, humble and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. When Jesus commanded the two disciples to go get the donkey and colt, He knew that this detail had to be carried out so that all the prophecies would be fulfilled. In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. If they were going out for war, the king would be on a horse, but if they came in peace, it was common to come on a donkey, which symbolized peace. The donkey also symbolized humbleness. Zechariah's prophecy alludes to this, "Humble, and mounted on a donkey."

(John 1:1) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(Zech 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."

In Luke 24, after Jesus had risen from the dead, He caught up with two men on the road to Emmaus. They were discussing all the things that had happened to Jesus. Jesus joined in their conversation, and asked, "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Jesus explained to them, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, all the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." All these things were necessary. This donkey and colt were necessary so that all of the Scriptures and prophecies concerning the Messiah would be carried out. In this particular prophecy through Zechariah, it is significant because it declares that the king was coming to them. This is Jesus, the King, who is entering into Jerusalem.

(Luke 24:25-27) "And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! {26} "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" {27} Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."

The third point I want to make before moving on is that we can trust in God's word. When God says something; we can trust in it. In numbers 23:19, Moses wrote, "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has he spoken, and will He not make it good?" God gave us His word, and we can put complete confidence and trust in His word, His promises, and His prophecies. We may not understand them all the time, but we can trust them.

(Num 23:19) "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

In Psalm 12:6, we find that "the words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." There is nothing corrupt, defiled, impure, or unreliable in God's word; it is pure and it can be trusted by us.

(Ps 12:6) "The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."

The word of God is also timeless. Isaiah wrote that the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." The promises that were made four thousand years ago to Abraham are still valid today. The promises made to David to seat one of his descendants on the throne were still valid, and are still valid today. The word of God does not get outdated. You can trust in God's word today. If God tells us something, we can trust Him to accomplish that word. As Jesus told the two on the road to Emmaus, "Was it not necessary?" Jesus arrival on a donkey was necessary to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy.

(Is 40:8) "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

2. Arrival in Jerusalem (Mark 11:7-10)

The second scene is Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. It is known by most as Palm Sunday. John MacArthur and others say that He actually came on Monday, not Sunday. Our text does not state the day of the week, only that they brought the colt to Jesus, put their coats on it, and he sat on it and came into Jerusalem. It is known as Palm Sunday because people spread branches on the road that they had cut from the field. There are a lot of Palms in the area. Jericho was known as

the city of palms. Bethany was the house of dates, and dates are grown on date palms. The Greek word used is *stoibas* (Strong's G4746), which means branch. Even though Matthew, Mark and Luke do not mention palm branches, John specifies that these are palm branches. This makes sense because there were lots of date palms in Bethany, and it is likely that the branches were date palm branches. In many churches, palm cuttings are handed out to commemorate Palm Sunday. It is claimed that the palms represent peace and victory.

(Mark 11:7-8) "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."

(John 12:12-13) "On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, {13} 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."

Mark also records that people spread their coats in the road. Why coats? This was an old custom that showed submission. It signified that people were coming under them, below their feet, which means they were submitting to the person. It was something that was commonly done for kings. In 2 Kings 9, God sent the prophet Elisha to Jesu to anoint him as the king. In verse thirteen, after Jehu had been anointed, the people "hurried and each man took his garment and placed it under him on the bare steps, and blew the trumpet, saying, 'Jehu is king!'"

(2 Kings 9:13) "Then they hurried and each man took his garment and placed it under him on the bare steps, and blew the trumpet, saying, "Jehu is king!"

When kings conquered their enemies, they placed their feet on the back of their enemies showing that they now ruled over them. An example of this is when Joshua conquered five kings in Joshua 10:24. They brought these kings out to him, and he had his chiefs to put their feet on their necks, showing that these kings were now under their authority.

(Joshua 10:24) "When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks."

The people put branches and coats on the roads for Jesus to walk on, and they shouted, "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!" Hosanna means, "Save, we pray." It was an exclamation and a prayer for this King to save them. The Jews were looking for the Messianic King to establish His rule and to get them out from under Roman rule. But, Jesus, the Messianic King, was not coming to Jerusalem to reign, but to die and to save them from their sins. He was the Passover Lamb that would take away the sins of the world.

(Mark 11:9-10) "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!"

When they shouted, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," they were quoting Psalm 118:26. They also shouted, "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David." They

understood that Jesus was coming as the Messianic King, that He was a descendant of David. They were celebrating the triumphant entry of the long-awaited king into Jerusalem.

(Psalm 118:26) "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD."

Before moving on, I want to bring up one more point. Jesus had told His disciples many times about this trip to Jerusalem. But, they had not understood the things that He had told them. In John's account, after they had taken the palm branches and shouted out to Jesus, he recorded that the disciples did not understand at the first, but after Jesus had been glorified, they remembered these things were written of Him. God was going to fulfil His promises and prophecies whether they understood what was going on or not.

(John 12:12-16) "On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, {13} 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." {14} Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, {15} "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." {16} 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."

The same goes for us, God is faithful to His word, and He will perform His word, whether we understand or not. But, isn't it nice to have understanding about events that are taking place. When Daniel did not understand the prophecies and the timing, he fasted and sought the Lord. We have to do the same thing. We must search the Scriptures and ask the Lord for insights, revelation, and understanding.

(Dan 10:12) "Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words."

3. Departure for Bethany (Mark 11:11)

In the last scene Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple. After looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late. I believe that Jesus was surveying the situation. I believe He was thinking about the things that He was going to do the very next day. He was gathering all the information and making a plan.

(Mark 11:11) "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."

After looking around at everything, He left for Bethany. He was going to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus' house. We find the account in John 12:1-9. It is at this dinner that Mary anointed His feet with perfume in preparation of His burial. Jesus had triumphantly entered Jerusalem as the Messianic King, but He did not come to reign, but to give His life as a ransom for men. He came as the Lamb of God that was going to take away the sins of the world.

Conclusion and Applications

The first ten chapters of Mark cover the three years of Jesus' public ministry. The last six chapters cover the final week of His ministry. Today, we covered the first day, His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There were preparations that were made for His entry in order to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy that He will come in on a colt. We see the omniscience of God, and the reliability and trustworthiness of His word. God will do what He says He will do. We can trust God's word. We may be like the disciples and not understand, but God will fulfill His word.

Jesus came as a humble king, riding on a donkey. He did not come galloping on a horse. He did not go to Jerusalem to overthrow the Romans and to reign. Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins. He came as the Passover Lamb to set us free from our sins.

There may be someone here today that has never received Jesus as your King. You have never thrown your coat on the road for Him to walk on. You have never shouted out, Hosanna, Jesus come save me. This morning, if you would like to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to pray with me.

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Son of David, the Messiah and King. I believe that You are the Lamb of God that came to free us of our sins. I ask You to forgive me of my sins. I ask You to come into my life and set up Your rule and reign in my life. I submit my life to You this morning. I pray, "Hosanna!" I pray for You to come into my life and be my Savior. I want to be part of Your kingdom. I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Q&A

Introduction (Mark 11:1-11)

1. **Preparation for the Arrival** (Mark 11:1-6, Luke 2:41-42, John 11:17-19, John 11:43-53, John 12:10-11, Matt 21:2, Luke 22:7-8, Col 2:9, John 1:1, Zech 9:9, Luke 24:25-27, Num 23:19, Ps 12:6, Is 40:8)
2. **Arrival in Jerusalem** (Mark 11:7-10, John 12:12-13, 2 Kings 9:13, Josh 10:24, Ps 118:26, John 12:12-16, Dan 10:12)
3. **Departure for Bethany** (Mark 11:11, John 12:1-9)

Conclusion and Applications