

39. Jesus Presented Himself as the King

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to new Christians how to take root in Christ and His love, so they can grow to spiritual maturity. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus publicly presented Himself to the Jews as their coming king.

Jesus, and His disciples, along with a large crowd, traveled the last fifteen miles from Jericho to Jerusalem after Jesus gave physical and spiritual sight to Bartimaeus. Mark 11:1-3 says, “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, ‘Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring *it*. And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.’” We see what happened when Jesus got close to the city of Jerusalem. The towns of Bethphage and Bethany were close together. They were less than two miles from the city of Jerusalem. Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead just a few weeks earlier at Bethany.

As the road passed near the small town of Bethphage, Jesus sent two of His disciples into the town. Jesus gave the two some very specific instructions about what they were to do when they came into the town. They were told that as soon as they came into the town, they would find a colt tied. Zechariah had predicted this event in Zechariah 9:9, where we read: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.” This was a colt on which no one had yet ridden. We see that Jesus was careful to fulfill each prophecy about Himself.

Again, this event showed the two disciples that Jesus knew all things. He had just been walking up the road from Jericho to Jerusalem and He was able to tell the disciples exactly where they would find a donkey with a colt that had never been ridden. This is one of many times Jesus showed that He knows all things. Jesus also knew that the people standing nearby would question why the disciples were untying the donkey. As a result, Jesus told the disciples what to say when they were questioned. Jesus said they would be asked, “Why are you doing this?” The Lord told them that they were to answer, “The Lord has need of it.” Jesus said that the owner would immediately give his permission for them to take the donkey.

The disciples then went to the small town. Mark 11:4-7 tells us what happened when the disciples followed the instructions of Jesus. Those verses say, “So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But, some of those who stood there said to them, ‘What are you doing, loosing the colt?’ And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.” We see what happened as the disciples followed the instructions of Jesus.

Just like Jesus had said, they found the colt tied by the door of a house. Since their houses were built right to the edge of the street, the donkey was actually standing in the street. The two disciples began to untie the colt from the place where it was tied. Some of the people standing there

immediately began to question the disciples and ask them why they were untying the colt. These people probably recognized the disciples, since the disciples had been with Jesus just a few weeks earlier when He had raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus was well known in this area. He had spent time at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in the past. Luke 10:38 says, “Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.” Then, John 11:1-3 says, “Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.’” Here, we that Jesus had spent time in this area, so people were familiar with Jesus and His disciples.

As a result, when the two disciples said that Jesus needed the colt, the people immediately let them take the colt. The disciples brought the colt to Jesus as He walked toward Jerusalem. The disciples threw their clothes on the colt of the donkey. Jesus then sat on the colt. Jesus was now ready to enter the city of Jerusalem and offer Himself as the king. This was important because it caused the Jewish religious leaders to make the choice to officially reject Him. John 12:19 says, “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, ‘You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!’” This caused them to move forward with their plans to put Jesus to death.

However, in these verses, we see that the common people showed their love for Jesus. Mark 11:8-11 says, “And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Blessed *is* the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.”

Most of the people traveling along this particular road to the feast in Jerusalem were from Galilee. These were people who had seen and heard much more about Jesus than the people of Judea. As a result, many of these people believed that Jesus was the Christ. They were looking for Jesus to become the king and reestablish the nation of Israel. Many of these people probably knew Zechariah 9:9, which says: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.” When they saw Jesus riding on the colt of a donkey, they recognized Him as the promised Messiah.

Some of the people spread their clothes on the road ahead of Jesus. This was one of the ways the people of Israel showed that they recognized a person as their king. 2 Kings 9:13 says, “Then each man hastened to take his garment and put *it* under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, ‘Jehu is king!’” In this verse, we see that the people spread their clothes under Jehu when they anointed him to be the king of Israel. Others, as they followed Jesus, cut down branches from the trees along the road and spread them on the road. Then, some of the people went ahead of Jesus and others followed behind as the whole crowd began to move slowly toward

Jerusalem.

The people were shouting and crying out, “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Blessed *is* the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” The word translated “hosanna” originally meant *save now*. Each year, as the people walked toward Jerusalem for the various feasts, they would sing the words of Psalms 113-118. Psalm 118:26 says, “Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.” Many of the Jews felt that this talked about the Messiah for whose arrival they were eagerly waiting. Their use of this verse as they surrounded Jesus, as He traveled the last little distance to Jerusalem, meant they felt Jesus was the One who fulfilled the Old Testament promises.

The Jews longed for the day when the kingdom of David would be reestablished. Psalm 145:10-13 says, “All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.” The Jews knew that God had promised that the kingdom of David would be an everlasting kingdom because of the promises that had been given to David.

Of course, that was exactly what the angel had told Mary, when the angel said, in Luke 1:31-33, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” In these words the people cried out as they walked with Jesus toward Jerusalem, we see that they also recognized that Jesus came in the name of the Lord. They were eager for Him to establish this eternal kingdom.

When Jesus arrived at Jerusalem, He went into the temple. The temple included the entire courtyard that surrounded the temple, as well as the buildings of the temple. Here, we see that He was inspecting what was going on in the temple courtyard. We will see what Jesus did the next day as a result of that inspection. However, since it was getting late at that time, Jesus left the temple and went back to the town of Bethany, where He and the disciples were going to spend the night. We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand and learn to explain the fact that many of the common people did recognize Jesus as the coming King and recognized that Jesus was the One who fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.