

## 64. Jesus Was Welcomed as the King

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn that Jesus has given them the opportunity to serve Him as they wait for His coming. We also saw that the Lord will reward both faithfulness and effectiveness in that service for the Lord. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus came to Jerusalem and rode into the city on a donkey as His followers said, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Jesus and the people with Him had traveled up the mountain from Jericho to Jerusalem. When they were close to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus instructed two of His disciples to go and get the donkey of a colt for Him to ride into the city. He also told them what to say to the owner of the colt. Luke 19:28-32 says, “When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, *that* He sent two of His disciples, saying, ‘Go into the village opposite *you*, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring *it here*. And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you loosing it?’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’ So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them.” Jesus and the people with Him had to go up about four thousand feet in the twenty miles from Jericho to Jerusalem because Jericho was near the Dead Sea and over a thousand feet below sea level while Jerusalem was at the top of the mountain range and the mountains were about three thousand feet high.

Bethany and Bethphage were two villages very close together and only about a mile from the city of Jerusalem. Bethany was the place where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. These villages were very close to the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two disciples to one of the villages and gave them instructions about what they were to do when they reached the village. Jesus said that when they entered the village they would find a colt. Zechariah 9:9 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.” This colt was a young colt and had never been ridden before. Jesus told the two disciples to get the colt and bring it to Him.

Jesus also told the two disciples what to say if anyone asked them why they were loosing the colt. Jesus gave them a very specific answer to give to the person that questioned them. They were to say, “Because the Lord has need of it.” Jesus was well known in these two villages because He had raised Lazarus from the dead just a few weeks earlier in Bethany. The disciples then went to the village. Exactly as Jesus had said, there was a colt tied when they entered the village. Since Jesus was just coming to this area from Jericho, this is another thing that showed that Jesus is God and knows all things because He had just arrived and told the disciples exactly where to find the colt.

Luke 19:33-36 says, “But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, ‘Why are you loosing the colt?’ And they said, ‘The Lord has need of him.’ Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, *many*

spread their clothes on the road.” Here, we see that the owners of the colt were the ones who asked the disciples why they were untying the colt. The two disciples gave the answer that Jesus had told them to give when they were asked the question. The owners immediately let the two disciples take the colt.

The two disciples brought the colt to Jesus. Then they placed their own robes on the colt so that Jesus could sit on their robes. Jesus was then placed on the colt. By this action, the multitude of disciples following Jesus immediately recognized that they were about to see a fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 quoted above. However, they probably also expected to see the fulfillment of Zechariah 9:10 which says, “I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion *shall be* “from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”” This verse said that the King would end all fighting, bring peace to all of the nations and rule to the ends of the earth. As we see in many places both in the Old and the New Testaments, that will only be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Jesus when He comes to rule the whole earth.

The people would also have been familiar with the prophecy in Zechariah 14:4 which says, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *making* a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.” Since these two villages were right next to the Mount of Olives, many of the disciples may have thought that Jesus would soon fulfill Zechariah 14:8-9 which says, “And in that day it shall *be that* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—‘The Lord *is* one,’ and His name one.” Many in the multitude were expecting Jesus to establish that rule immediately.

That is why many of the people began to spread their clothes on the road. The spreading of their clothes was the way that people had shown their recognition of a much earlier king of Israel. 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!’” As a result, this action was an act of respect as the people chose to show that they thought Jesus had come to fulfill the promises in Zechariah. The people certainly did not understand that there would be both a first and a second coming of Jesus.

However, we see that Jesus was recognized by His disciples and many others in the multitude that day as the King. Luke 19:37-40 says, “Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’ But He answered and said to them, ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’” Many Jews had long looked forward to the coming of their promised King and they now recognized Jesus as that King. What they did not understand was the fact that He will become the King at His second

coming.

We do see how the disciples of Jesus celebrated the arrival of Jesus as He came into Jerusalem that day. They began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice. They were also shouting about all of the mighty works and miracles that they had seen Jesus do during the previous three years. The Jews would normally sing Psalms 113-118 during their celebration of the Passover. Psalms 113 and 114 were sung before the meal and Psalms 115-118 would then be sung at the conclusion of the meal. We see that a part of Psalm 118 was what the people began to sing as Jesus was riding from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem.

Psalm 118:22-26 says, “The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing; it *is* marvelous in our eyes. This *is* the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.” We will see that Jesus quotes verse 22 in Luke 20:17 as He describes how the Jews would reject Him. However, as Jesus rode into Jerusalem the Jews were quoting from verses 25 and 26. Matthew 21:9 says, “Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!’” “Hosanna” means *save now*, which are the first two words of Psalm 118:25. Then “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!” is the first half of Psalm 118:26. This was a very clear statement that the multitude that day recognized that Jesus was the Messiah who fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament.

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd immediately reacted and called to Jesus from the crowd saying, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” The Pharisees were very angry because they clearly understood that the disciples were saying that Jesus was the Messiah. The word translated “rebuke” means *to not honor, to reprove or to charge sharply*. The Pharisees made it very clear that they wanted the disciples of Jesus to stop saying what they were saying because the Pharisees recognized that the disciples were calling Jesus the Messiah and the made the Pharisees very angry.

Instead of rebuking His disciples, Jesus answered the Pharisees by saying, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Jesus may have been using Habakkuk 2:10-11 as He answered the Pharisees. Those verses say, “‘You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many peoples, and sin *against* your soul. For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the timbers will answer it.’” This would be both a rebuke to the Pharisees and a statement saying that if His disciples did not say He was the Messiah, the very rocks would cry out and say He was the Messiah. This certainly made the Pharisees and the other Jewish religious leaders even angrier because this meant that Jesus was making the statement that He was the Messiah. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why the disciples of Jesus, and Jesus Himself, said He was the Messiah. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand that Jesus was the promised Messiah.