

## Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

October 27, 2013

### Introduction

Today we are at the beginning of the end, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a colt. I find it interesting that many Bibles title this passage as "Jesus' Triumphant Entry," but I rather call this the false coronation of the King. This is not the true coronation. The people's expression of praise is false because in a few short days, most of them will shout out, "Crucify Him!" We know from Scripture that a large majority of the Jews rejected Christ, the Promised One of Israel. They could not accept the fact that Jesus never fit the mold of their version of the Messiah. He often denied them that opportunity. For instance, when Jesus was in Galilee, after feeding the 5,000, the crowd wanted to make Him their king by force. He refused.

**Note:** When is Jesus' true coronation as King of kings? In Scripture, Jesus has two coronations. First, after His ascension, He sat on the right hand of God. This is the heavenly coronation. Second, He is coming again the second time, and He will take over the throne of David and rule the Millennial Kingdom and for eternity as the King of kings.

Up to this point, Jesus never allowed an open, public demonstration that declared that He was the Messiah. Prior to His entry into Jerusalem, it was never time for Him to openly declare that He was the Messiah. However, when He enters Jerusalem, He allows the crowd to sing Hosannas and walks with them. The reason is that it is time for Him to die. This public demonstration stokes the religious leaders' fury to even higher temperatures. They already wanted to kill Jesus after He raised Lazarus from the dead. They even wanted Lazarus dead because they saw him as a threat. Lazarus had become a curiosity, and that curiosity led people to Christ. The religious leaders were afraid of the people. It is because of their fear that they did not want to kill Jesus on Passover; however, God put in motion to escalate the enemies' fury so that Jesus would be killed on Passover. God orchestrated this event so that Jesus would be surrounded by the greatest amount of people. The enemies of Jesus Christ would feel threatened to the nth degree and execute Jesus at God's chosen time.

So Jesus rides into Jerusalem not as a king, but to start the motion that He would die on Passover day. Mark's account is very simple, stark even. He does not focus on Jesus as the King (even though he alludes to Him being the King), but as the Servant.

*1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples,*

- Approached Jerusalem
  - The beginning of the end

**Mark 10:33** *"We are going up to Jerusalem," He said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles,*

- No turning back
- He is committed to the cross to be the sacrificial lamb
- Ministries at Galilee and Perea are over
- Crowds all around Him
  - They are curious, thrill seekers
  - Raising Lazarus from the dead—widespread knowledge of this event

**Luke 19:37** *When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:*

**Note:** Even the miracles are not enough for them to believe.

- Bethphage and Bethany
  - Lazarus is from Bethany (**See John 11**)
  - Crowd from area or from Jerusalem (pilgrims) building up

**Note:** The day before, many people are visiting Jesus and Lazarus because of curiosity.

- Villages only two miles from Jerusalem (east side)
- Near Mount of Olives

**2** saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **3** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" **4** They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, **5** some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" **6** They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. **7** When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, He sat on it.

- Village opposite you
  - They are staying in Bethany
  - Go to Bethphage
  - Two disciples—we do not know who
- The request
  - How did He know?
    - He is omniscient
  - If anyone asks—tell them
    - This is a terrible explanation (if we use it)
    - Jesus knew that whoever (the owner or the keeper) knew Jesus
      - This person is a believer
      - Complete trust in the Lord
- The colt
  - No one has sat on it
    - Has not been broken—never has been used for work
    - Considered sacred (**Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3**)
- Obedient disciples
  - Disciples did as Jesus asked
  - Event occurred exactly as Jesus predicted
  - Marvelous display of His omniscience
- Why ride the colt?
  - Mark does not tell us
    - Mark is focusing on Jesus as the Servant

**Mark 10:45** *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

- His concern is not that Jesus is the King, but that He is a humble servant

- He is using Jesus as an example for us to follow
- Matthew tells us why Jesus rides the colt

**Matthew 21:4-5** *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "* **(From Zechariah 9:9)**

- He is the King that has come to die
  - His disciples did not understand this
  - They remembered after Jesus is glorified

**John 12:16** *At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.*

**8** *Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.*

- Clothes on road

**2 Kings 9:13** *They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"*

- Common to respect kings—sign of submission
  - Coronation of the king—their idea of a king
  - They knew what they were doing—their worship and show of piety was false
- Branches
  - Palm branches (according to **John 12:13**)
  - Symbol of joy

**Revelation 7:9-10** *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

- Joyful noises
  - This is an enthusiastic crowd

**Luke 19:37** *When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:*

**9** *Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "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!"*

- Hosanna
  - Means "save us now"
  - People are thinking of the earthly kingdom

***Psalms 118:26*** *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.*

- Definitely messianic praises
- **Verse 10** is not in the Old Testament
  - However, they recognize that the Son of David is the Messiah and king
- They were expecting a conquering King
  - Instead He attacks their false religion
  - Because of His attack, they turned against Him

**11** *Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.*

- Into the temple
  - Crowds are gone—what happened?
  - Just Jesus and the disciples
- He looks around
  - The temple—planning strategy for the day
  - Tomorrow, He attacks the money changers
  - He is at war against the religion of Judaism
    - He stands in the middle of Israel's faith and He stands alone
  - The temple was where God's glory dwelled

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** *The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; His love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, 14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.*

- However, Jesus, the God-man, leaves it
  - This is not the place for Him
  - The religious leaders and the nation were apostate
- Late
- Back to Bethany

## **Conclusion**

The Son of God is veiled and unrecognized. People saw in their mind a King to overcome Rome. He came to overcome sin and death. They want the glorious life now. He goes to the cross to give us the glorious life forever. In this quiet before the storm, we already see how the people respond. Enthusiasm and popularity are never the measure of genuine faith and worship. Mark writes to show that the true saving faith requires total commitment to the Son of God and follow Him. Very soon, this large crowd will dwindle down to the faithful few, yet it is the faithful few who will be blessed by this humble King.