

The Entrance of the King

(Matthew 21:1-11)

Introduction: Jesus never wrote a book. Yet, more books have been written about Him than anyone else who ever lived. Jesus never traveled more than 100 miles in any direction. Yet, people have traveled to the far reaches of the earth to proclaim His name. Many have even looked at Jesus with an inquisitive glance. He is interesting, unusual even unique. But, who is He? On that first Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem surrounded by a great crowd of followers and others. He entered as a King. This was the only time in His ministry that Jesus actually planned and promoted a public demonstration. Why did Jesus plan this demonstration? For one thing, He was obeying the Word and fulfilling the prophecy recorded by the Old Testament prophets (Isa. 62:11 & Zech 9:9). For another thing, (and more importantly), this was to be Jesus final appeal to His own nation and people he came to seek and save, to not only receive Him, but to believe upon Him. The climax of Jesus entire earthly ministry was at hand. His hour had come! The purpose for which He came was about to be fulfilled – Jesus came to go to the cross to save sinners (you and I)! This is the message of Palm Sunday! But, the people who gathered to welcome the King, didn't really know or receive Him for who He really was at all!

Jesus has been invading many people's lives for years and creating quite a stir and yet many are still unaware of who He is! (Notice three things this morning that will help us not only receive Jesus as king, but also believe upon Him as our King...)

I. It was the time for Passover:

A. This was not the first time Jesus had been to Jerusalem

- 1. There were people in the crowd that had heard Jesus words, seen His works and believed.** (John 12) records a little more background for us...
- 2. There were people in the crowd that had heard Jesus words, seen His works but had not yet believed.** (John 12:17-18).
 - a. They shouted Hosanna which means, "Save now!"** (Ps 118:25-26)
 - b. This forced the Jewish leaders to act** (Jn 12:19). **This is even more important** because, we see...

II. It was the time for Prophecy: (vv. 1-5)

- A. Prophecy tells us how He would come** - (Zech. 9:9) (1 Kings 2:32 ff).
- B. Prophecy tell us who He is who is coming – (v.9) Cf.** (Ps. 118:24-26 (Dan. 9:25, 26;)
- C. Prophecy tells when He would come –** Daniel sets the date by giving us the time table in his prophecy... We actually have the date and occurrence of that decree in scripture! (Neh. 2:1, 7-9)
- D. Prophecy tell us why He has come –** Daniel's prophecy also said, after the anointed one came – He would be cut off –

III. It was a time of problems: (The problem then was the people's spiritual blindness, just as it is today).

- A. Prophecy predicted this –** (Dan 9:26b)
- B. This happened because** the people did not recognize Jesus as their King of Kings.
- C. What caused Israel's spiritual blindness?**
 - 1. For one thing,** the truth of the gospel and God's word was not being preached. (Luke 11:52).
 - 2. The leaders were not interested in truth,** they were concerned only with protecting their own interests (John 11:47-53).
 - 3. Even our Lord's miracles** did not convince them. (Jn 12:35 ff).

Palm Sunday is a very significant day – As the fulfillment of prophecy and the final appeal of Jesus to His people then and us today. But, many today only want to believe what they want to believe about Jesus and not the truth (Lk. 19: 10; Jn. 1:11, 12 & 14: 6)

Conclusion: We live in a day and time when many see Jesus as a religious figure, leader and great teacher. Many come to worship services week after week to hear about Him, be stirred by Him and yet still do not know Him for who He is.

This Psalm Sunday Jesus showed up like that first Palm Sunday. And He is more than an interesting, unusual, even unique individual.

But, who is He to you?

Today, He comes seeking to enter your heart and life as Savior, Lord and King of your life – will you believe upon Him and receive the entrance of this King as your King today?