

A Journey with Christ the Messiah

It's Sunday but Friday is Coming

John 12:1, 9-11; Luke 19:29-36; John 12:12-19

INTRODUCTION:

In order to continue with the theme of "*A Journey with Christ the Messiah*", we are now entering into the final week of Christ. And in the next three weeks, Lord willing, we will be looking at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His death on the cross, and His resurrection. It will be a time of highs and lows for everyone despite what each one's beliefs may have been concerning Jesus.

In the church calendar year, we always look forward to the celebration of Christmas and the celebration of Easter. In the case of Easter, we set aside the whole week starting with what we call Palm Sunday which occurs next Sunday.

It is called "Palm Sunday", because according to the Gospels the crowds in Jerusalem threw their cloaks on the ground and put palm branches in front of Him on the road. They were ready to make Him their King. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during that Passover week showed the excitement and apparent support of the masses. Hosanna to the highest, they shouted to Jesus, only later to demand His crucifixion.

What was it that caused the crowds in Jerusalem to go from shouting "Hosanna" to "crucify Him"?

The Jewish chief priests and the Pharisees had a completely different perspective on Jesus' triumphal entry. They were certain that Jesus was a false Messiah and were leading the Jews away from God. They saw Jesus as a blasphemer because He claimed to be God. They acknowledged his miracles, but felt that they must have been accomplished through demons.

What caused the Jewish leaders to go from envy to joy?

In just the next few days things everything is going to appear to be turned upon its head.

I have named my message this morning around a famous sermon by Tony Compolo that was entitled It's Friday but Sunday is Coming where he recounts a sermon he heard from a black minister in his church. In that sermon he speaks of Jesus death on the cross and how it looked that all was lost. But he says it is ""**ooonnolly**" **Friday and Sunday is a-coming**". That is next week's message.

Christ was not going to meet their expectations as an earthly king.

"It is Sunday, but Friday is Coming".

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 12:1, 9-11 (NASB)

12 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

...⁹ The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. ¹⁰ 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.

Luke 19:29-36 (NASB)

29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road.

John 12:12-19 (NASB)

¹² 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. ¹⁷ So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. ¹⁸ For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

Prayer

The setting of this episode takes place on Sunday, just prior to the crucifixion later that week, as the Lord and his disciples made their way toward Jerusalem.

We learn from the Gospel of John that Jesus and the disciples had actually spent the night in Bethany on their way to Jerusalem. Bethany was the home of Mary and Martha. Their brother was Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead.

This set the scene for the triumphal entry the next day. Large crowds of Jews had heard that Jesus was arriving in Jerusalem and wanted to greet Him. The chief priests were getting restless and plotting to kill Him.

In order to appreciate what happens next, you need to understand something of the Jewish feelings toward Rome. In 63 BC Roman legions under Pompey had put an end to an independent Jewish state, conquering Jerusalem and deposing the King. Israel longed

for the day that the Messiah predicted by the prophets would deliver them from the military dictatorship of the pagan Romans. They wanted Israel to be restored to the throne of David and establish God's Kingdom in the land.

During his ministry, Jesus had shunned the public pronouncement that he was the promised Messiah. But now the time was at hand! Now the time had come to start declaring that He was the Messiah!

People had recently witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and many of them had either experienced Jesus healing personally or knew friends and family who had been. The excitement level was high! **BUT...**

It is Sunday, and Friday is coming!

This morning, I would like to look at the triumphant entry from several different perspectives.

BODY:

I. Triumphant Entry from Christ's Perspective.

A. To do the Will of the Father Who Sent Him.

Jesus Christ was on his way to Jerusalem, knowing full well that this trip would end in his sacrificial death for the sin of humanity. Being fully human, it had to be a very agonizing time knowing the pain and suffering that He was about to endure.

Christ's mission was first and foremost to do God's will. It was the only way for man to be reconciled back to God.

John 6:38 (NASB)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Just before His crucifixion, He prayed in the Garden of Eden,

Luke 22:42 (NASB)

⁴² saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

B. To Fulfill Prophecy.

Both Matthew and John tell us that this triumphant entry was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy from Old Testament scriptures from Psalms, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

Zechariah 9:9-10 (NASB)

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.

These prophecies were written approximately hundreds of years before it actually took place in Jerusalem by Jesus.

C. To Declare That He was the Messiah.

Jesus' purpose in riding into Jerusalem was to make public His claim to be their Messiah and King of Israel in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Matthew tells us that the King coming on the foal of a donkey was an exact fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9.

Up until now Jesus has been very guarded about his identity as Messiah. Rather than using the term **Christ** (**Greek** for "**anointed one**") or **Messiah** (the **Hebrew** word for "**anointed one**"), he frequently identified himself as the "**Son of Man**". If Jesus had previously acknowledged publicly that he was the Messiah, the political implications would be such that he would not have been able to complete his intended ministry of teaching, healing, and proclaiming the Kingdom. But now that ministry is complete. He had lived a sinless life despite the fact that He was human and despite all the temptations that Satan through at Him. He had qualified Himself to be our **perfect sacrifice** on the cross. **It was truly a time for celebration!** All that remains is to accomplish his final week in Jerusalem.

His claim as King (or Messiah) must now be clear!

D. To Prepare the Twelve Disciples.

One of the missions was no doubt to prepare the twelve disciples for what was about to take place. Even though they would not fully understand what He was telling them, they would fully understand when they saw events happen that Jesus had foretold to them. This would reinforce their faith in Christ and prepare them for the ministry that confronted them.

The events of Jesus' passion or suffering did not catch Him by surprise. On the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem he had taken the Twelve disciples aside and told them what would soon happen.

Mark 10:33-34 (NASB)

³³ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again."

In Mark's story Jesus revealed very detailed events that the disciples will experience in connection with getting the colt. The simple explanation they are to give, "The Lord has need of it".

John 12:16 (NASB)

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.

Somebody might think that Jesus had simply made prior arrangements with the colt's owners without telling the disciples. But this seems to miss the lesson that Mark is trying to teach here, namely, Jesus' foreknowledge and control over the events leading up to his suffering and death. Jesus wanted the disciples to see that He is not the victim of events which are spinning out of control; rather He remains the sovereign master of his fate as he **chooses** to go to the cross.

II. Triumphant Entry from the Crowd's Perspective.

The crowd thought that at last God's anointed king had come, the teacher and miracle-worker from Nazareth, who would cast off the pagan rulers of Israel and establish God's true kingdom, centered not in Rome but in Jerusalem. They are building a carpet of cloaks and palm leaves in front of Him. Amid shouting and singing, with the crowds surrounding him on all sides.

It is Sunday, but Friday is Coming!

By Friday, enough of the multitude were sufficiently disenchanted with Jesus that the Temple priesthood who had engineered his arrest and delivered him to the Romans on the treasonous charge of claiming to be "King of the Jews" were able to turn them against him. And now they chanted, not cries of "Hosanna!" but "Crucify him! Crucify him!" And so to the cross He went, to die as he knew He must.

Unfortunately, the praise the people lavished on Jesus was not because they recognized Him as their Messiah. They welcomed Him out of their desire for a deliverer, someone who would lead them in a revolt against Rome.

III. Triumphant Entry from the Roman's Perspective.

His triumphant entry into the city was **not** something the Romans were expecting or would have understood, and Jesus' procession probably just melted into the Passover crowd once they got to Jerusalem.

The Romans had seen the miracles that Christ had done and the large numbers of followers that He had. They feared that Christ might try to establish a new kingdom on earth and possibly overthrow their rule over the Jews.

At the very least, they felt that Jesus would cause disturbance in Jerusalem and cause them to have face their authorities as to why Jerusalem was in such an uproar and maybe even threaten the Roman privileges that they were currently getting by keeping Jerusalem peaceful.

They just wanted to eliminate the threat.

It is Sunday, but Friday is Coming!

IV. Triumphant Entry from the Religious Leader's Perspective.

The Pharisees were jealous of Jesus and afraid of the Romans. Many of them did not believe that He was the Messiah. They were already seeing many Jews pulling away from Judaism and believing in Jesus.

The chief priests and Jewish leaders, no doubt, felt that when the real Messiah came **they** would be the ones that He would come to. After all, **they were the leaders of the JEWS** in the city of the Jews, Jerusalem. They probably expected the Messiah and come and pat them on the back and tell them what a great job they had done and hand them leadership roles in His earthly kingdom. But, this Jesus, was consistently reprimanding them for their hard heartedness and disbelief.

So they were conspiring to kill Jesus. He was not meeting their expectations of the Messiah, but yet, He was claiming to be God.

It is Sunday, but Friday is Coming!

V. What the Triumphant Entry Teaches Us.

Just as Jesus experienced joy and pain at the same time when following God's will, we will often experience them coexisting in our lives as well. There will be no complete rejoicing until we rejoice fully in heaven, after God has wiped away every tear from our eyes.

We are currently in this world of sin, but Christ is coming!

The disciples heeded Jesus' instructions about obtaining the donkey. We must have faith in Christ God's word and obey Him when he tells us to do something.

The crowds refused to see Jesus as he truly was. Jesus doesn't always meet our expectations either. We must read God's word and base our expectations upon what He reveals to us in the scriptures Christ is Lord, and He knows what is best. When we try to make him fit our expectations and what is acceptable to us, we are effect rejecting Him. That is the path to self-destruction. We must **not** be like the people in Jerusalem, who hailed Christ as their king, just so long as he fit their image of what a king should be.

CONCLUSION:

The Savior's "Triumphal Entry" into the city of Jerusalem, one week before "Resurrection Sunday," signals both deliverance and doom. Those who acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah and surrender to his will, will experience deliverance from sin and an eternal life in Heaven with our creator. Those who reject Him will continue to be dead in their sins.

If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior, the window of opportunity is open for you now. God wants to come into your life. If you have not been baptized into Christ, won't you come forward this morning and accept His plan of salvation.

Acts 2:38 (NASB)

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ ...those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

He is Lord!