



The King Comes To His City

Key idea:

As He entered Jerusalem for the final time, Jesus purposefully fulfilled several Messianic prophecies, and the crowd's joyful response was also a fulfillment of the prophecies regarding the coming of the King to His City.

Key text:

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 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. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 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!” 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.

Key points:

1. Mark 11:1-11 shows the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with a throng of pilgrims to celebrate Passover.
2. Jesus consciously fulfills several Messianic prophecies in His entry to Jerusalem:
 - a. He tells two disciples they will find a colt tied which they are to bring to Him, fulfilling Genesis 49:10-11.
 - b. The colt has never been ridden, which fulfills the command that animals used for sacred purposes must never have been used for ordinary purposes (Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3)

- c. Jesus rode into Jerusalem (Zion) on a donkey colt fulfilling Zechariah 9:9.
- 3. The crowd of pilgrims fulfills prophecy by rejoicing with praise and blessing Jesus as the Coming David King.
 - a. They quote from Psalm 118:25-26, part of the Psalms quoted when approaching Jerusalem for Pentecost.
 - b. Even if the people did not fully understand what they were doing (John 12:16), the Pharisees saw the clear Messianic signs and objected.
 - c. Jesus noted that the stones would cry out if the people did not - for Messiah had come! (Luke 19:39-40)

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why did God have His people do pilgrimages? Is there anything similar to doing a pilgrimage that is part of my spiritual walk with God?
3. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is one of the few events of His life and ministry to be recorded in all 4 Gospels. Why do I think all 4 Gospels saw it so important?
 - a. How does God's unfolding covenant with His people lead to this moment?
 - b. How does Jesus' previous life and ministry lead to this moment?
4. Jesus gives the disciples clear instructions about finding a colt, people asking questions, and the appropriate response. Do I think He had made arrangements for the colt ahead of time, or do I think this is evidence of Divine foreknowledge? Why?
5. Had I ever considered the Messianic prophecy in Genesis 49:10-11? Is it as clear as later Messianic prophecies? What does this teach me about the way God revealed the coming of the Messiah?
6. John 12:16 informs us that the disciples did not even understand how their actions were fulfilling Messianic prophecies. How does this fit with the way the disciples have been portrayed throughout Mark's Gospel?
7. Why do I think the pilgrim crowd was rejoicing so much as they entered Jerusalem? Was it merely joy at the end of the journey? Or did they think that Jesus was a great prophet, or possibly even the Messiah?

8. Many Christians re-enact the Triumphal entry every year on Palm Sunday. Why would they do this? Why is it important for me to personally remember and respond to this moment?
9. Even those who understood that Jesus is the King did not understand His actions over the final week of His life, especially His death on the cross. How have I experienced Jesus' surprising rule in my life? Are there any areas where I am struggling to understand God's work in my life at present? How can I walk in faith in spite of my lack of understanding?
10. Who can I reach out to this week to share the Good News of what Jesus has done?