

Day 1

PALM SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19

On the Sunday before his death, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would lay down his life. Nearing the village of Bethphage, he sent two of his disciples ahead, telling them to look for a donkey and its unbroken colt. The disciples were instructed to untie the animals and bring them to him. Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly and humbly made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the ancient prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. It is important that we also read Zechariah 9:10 as the apostles would have known and repeated in their minds in the moment. The crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Zechariah 9:9

"I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth."

Zechariah 9:10

Questions

1. What would we expect the triumphant entry of the Messiah would look like?
2. Have you ever considered the significance of Jesus on a donkey?
3. How does this change your perspective of Jesus and the kind of kingdom He introduces?

Changing Your Mind

Jesus enters Jerusalem with intent. He intends to subvert the empire and introduce people to the God of Peace. A God that is Love, can only Love. He shows us that the Janus-Faced god represented in ancient myth is not the God of Love. Our God cannot change face and does not change mind. He is, was and will be a God that desires Mercy, not sacrifice (Hosea). Meditate on the type of Kingdom Jesus brings forth. This kingdom is here, now and in you. This is the type of Kingdom you create. He is the King that defines it. And it brings Grace and Peace. Jesus enters on a donkey; Pilate enters on a warhorse.

Moving Forward

Our posture is important. The way we enter a room, job, relationship, city. How does this story impact you? Does it change the way you see God? It has to move us that God chooses the way of peace even in a time of great pain and turmoil. Meditate on this moment and see the implications and applications as the Holy Spirit reveals it in you.

