

The Triumphant Entry

Luke 19: 28-40

Today is a special day in the lives of believers. It is the day that we celebrate Palm Sunday, the day that our Lord made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. That day marked the beginning of what has become known as Passion Week. On Palm Sunday our Lord entered into the city of Jerusalem marking the beginning of His faithful march to the cross, being crucified on the following Friday.

This is an intriguing passage that offers insight to that blessed day as well as the coronation of the King. The average American has little knowledge of a coronation. We do not live in a society ruled by a Monarch. In modern society most coronations are all pomp and fluff with the monarch having little legislative power. However, in the days where monarchs held absolute rule, the coronation was quite a spectacle. The incoming monarch would come before a grand display, designed to celebrate and solidify his reign. It would be an event attended by dignitaries, with everyone dressed in the finest array. As the incoming monarch was crowned, there would be a special ceremony, designed to transfer power to the new monarch. It would often include the presentation of a crown and even a bejeweled scepter. These would have been the most elaborate displays the country would experience.

The account that we have read this morning bears little resemblance to the pomp and grandeur of the typical coronation. On this coronation day the King of all kings entered the capitol city riding upon a beast of burden. Crowds had gathered to witness His triumphant entry, but there was no grand celebration. At this moment in time Jesus was looking toward Calvary. He knew the time of His offering was close at hand. Let's take a few moments to look in on that blessed day as we consider the [characteristics](#) of: [The Triumphant Entry](#).

I. A Day of Fruition (35-36) – [And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. \[36\] And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.](#) Here we read of the triumphant entry itself. It was at that moment in time, on that faithful day, that prophecy was fulfilled. This was no accident or chance encounter. The Lord was fulfilling that which was spoken of by Zechariah. [Zech. 9:9 – Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.](#)

- One might wonder why the Lord sovereignly chose a donkey to enter Jerusalem, but in reality it was a perfect choice. In that day donkeys were ridden by royalty. It was the animal of kings. They were also considered beasts of burden. What a picture we see fulfilled as our Lord bore the burdens of humanity. Donkeys were viewed as animals of peace. A conquering king

would have ridden a stallion. Jesus came in peace to redeem fallen humanity. He will come again riding a white stallion as He comes to rule and reign, judging the world and Satan.

- Quickly I want to mention another interesting prophecy that was fulfilled with the triumphant entry. Daniel gave a specific prophecy, revealing the exact time our Lord would enter Jerusalem. In [Dan.9:25](#) he speaks of a period of 69 weeks between the order of king Artaxerxes to restore the Temple and the coming of Messiah. The word [weeks](#) in that passage is translated from the Hebrew word *shabuwa* which refers to a period of 7 years. That translated to 483 years. It was exactly 483 years from the restoration of the Temple until our Lord entered Jerusalem.
- Jesus was well aware of this. He knew that His time had come. He was already preparing for the cross and was determined to fulfill the prophecy of old concerning His coming. In the process of fulfillment, He sent the disciples to bring the colt unto Him so that He might enter Jerusalem upon it, fulfilling the prophecy. Christ's coming was no coincidence and His death and resurrection weren't either! This was all within the sovereign plan of God.

I. A Day of Fruition [\(35-36\)](#)

II. A Day of Submission – As we consider this passage in its context we clearly see the submission of Christ to the will of the Father. As He entered Jerusalem many desired Him to establish His kingdom and free them from Roman bondage. That was not the intent for His triumphant entry. He had not come to establish an earthly kingdom or free the people from physical bondage. He has come as the Savior of the world, soon to provide a means of redemption from spiritual bondage to all who will believe on Him.

- We must keep in mind that Jesus was well aware of the events that were soon to transpire. He knew that the time for His betrayal, subsequent false accusations and mock trial were just a few days away. He knew that He would be rejected by those He came to save. He was aware that those whom had followed so closely and even declared their unwavering allegiance would turn their backs on Him and flee in fear. He knew He would stand before Pilate and be condemned to a brutal scourging, mockery and shame, and eventually face the horrors of death upon the cross.
- That is difficult for me to fully comprehend. He was God robed in flesh. Our Lord felt the same emotions we feel; He experienced the same pain our bodies do; He knew what it was to feel lonely and forsaken. One who was completely innocent and sinless submitted to the death of the cross for our redemption. One who had shown power and compassion as no other was willing to taste death so that we wouldn't have to endure eternal death and separation.

- Can you imagine the dread Jesus must have experienced as He made that triumphant entry? He knew that very soon He would endure the cruelty of the cross and the judgment of God in His own body. The crowds may have shouted their praises at that moment, but Jesus knew that the shouts of praise would very soon give way to cries of condemnation. His humanity must have been in agony as He made His way toward the cross.
- But, as we consider this being a day of submission, we must remember that even though He was fully man, He was also fully God. This was not a decision that He and the Father had agreed to recently. This was the plan and will of God before the foundation of the world. Before man was ever created and sin entered the human race, Christ had already submitted to the death of the cross. He was simply submitting to that which He always knew would be necessary! Had He not been willing to give Himself as the perfect, atoning sacrifice we would yet be in sin and without hope!

I. A Day of Fruition (35-36)

II. A Day of Submission

III. A Day of Adoration (37-38) – *And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; [38] Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.* As we will discover in a moment, much of this praise was likely misguided, but the fact remains that the multitudes praise the Lord for who He was and what He had done. They had thrown their garments in the pathway and many were waving palm branches, showing their honor and appreciation to the King.

- We cannot imagine such a scene. *During a census taken about ten years after this time, the number of sacrificial lambs slaughtered at the Passover was determined to be some 260,000. Because one lamb was allowed to be offered for up to ten people, the worshipers in Jerusalem that week could have numbered over 2,000,000.*¹ Thousands of people had lined the roadway into Jerusalem and they were all shouting their praises and worshipping the King!
- As we come to this blessed day of remembrance we too ought to have a word of praise for our King. I have received far more than those who were gathered that day!

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus: The Sweetest Name I Know

- Altogether Lovely, Almighty, Alpha and Omega
- Beginning and End, Bread of Life, Bright and Morning Star
- Christ, Counselor, Cornerstone, Captain of my Salvation
- Door, Deliverer, Desire of all Nations
- Eternal Life, the Everlasting Father
- First and Last, Faithful and True, Friend
- Gracious, Glorious, Good Shepherd, Great High Priest
- Hope of Glory, Horn of my Salvation, Holy One of God
- I Am, Immanuel, Intercessor
- Jesus, Judge of the quick and the dead, Joy of my soul
- King of kings
- Lord of lords, Lamb of God, Lion of Judah, Lily of the Valley
- Mighty God, Messiah, Master, Mediator
- Nazarene
- Only begotten, Our peace
- Precious, Propitiation, Physician, Protector of my soul
- Quiet in the storm
- Redeemer, Rose of Sharon, Resurrection and Life, Rock
- Savior, Sovereign, Son of God, Sun of Righteousness
- True Vine, Truth
- Unspeakable Gift
- Victorious Conqueror
- Wonderful, Word of Life, the Way
- X-tra Ordinary, The Excellent One
- The same Yesterday and Today
- The Zeal of my Heart

I. A Day of Fruition (35-36)

II. A Day of Submission

III. A Day of Adoration (37-38)

IV. A Day of Decision (37-39) – These verses reveal much about the scene that day. Clearly this was a day of decision in regard to their perception of Jesus. Notice:

A. The Confusion of the People (37-38) – *And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; [38] Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.* Many shouted praises to the Lord that day, but their perception was misguided. They saw a Man that could provide physical

healing and meet physical needs. They saw One who, in their minds, would deliver them from their present bondage. The tragedy is they never saw Jesus for who He really was. They never saw Him as the Messiah, Redeemer of the world. I am convinced that many who were there that day would stand in the courtyard of Pilate's hall and cast their voice against Jesus, crying for His crucifixion.

- Many today are confused regarding the Lord. They are quick to offer praise when they receive physical healing or find a means of help in a financial burden, but few offer genuine praise from a spiritual perspective. Many only see the need to worship when they have received some material or physical blessing. I pray that you see more in Jesus than just One you need in the emergency room or when the bills are past due. I pray that we too will recognize all that He is and praise Him for our redemption!

B. The Contempt of the Pharisees (39) – [And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.](#) These had witnessed the miracles and experienced Truth and yet they despised the worship of Jesus. They had rejected Him outright and were infuriated that anyone would praise Him as King.

- Our world is filled with those who have rejected the Lord and refuse to worship Him. They have no desire for a relationship with Him. There is never any praise, only mockery and cursing. Just as the Pharisees they have made their choice and want no part of this Man.
- I want to stress the importance of this thought. All men will worship Christ and proclaim Him as Lord. They can do it willfully here in submission and salvation or they will praise Him at the final judgment in condemnation. [Philip.2:10-11 – That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; \[11\] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.](#) The choice is yours to make; I would urge you to choose wisely!

I. A Day of Fruition (35-36)

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IV. A Day of Decision (37-39)

V. A Day of Confirmation (40) – **And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.** The Pharisees wanted the praises to stop, but it was impossible. God was honoring the submission and holiness of His Son. If the multitudes had not offered praise, the stones and in essence creation itself, would have cried out in worship unto the Lord.

- This is a different application all together, but it bears resemblance to the time when Jesus came forth after His baptism. God the Father declared that Jesus was His beloved Son, in whom He was well pleased. Jesus was worthy of praise and God would ensure that He received it. This verse confirms that Jesus was in perfect fellowship with the Father, fulfilling the plan of redemption just as God designed.
- With that I would like to remind us that He is Lord; He is worthy of our praise. He will receive the praise that He is due whether we are willing to offer it or not. I certainly don't want the rocks and creation to have to cry out in my place. I have much to worship Him for.

This has been a wonderful passage to consider this morning. I have been encouraged and deeply challenged by the accounts of our Lord's triumphant entry. He has already provided for your salvation. Have you trusted Him to redeem your soul? Do you see Him as Savior or just a man? The way we view and receive Jesus will have eternal implications.

Christian, how long has it been since you genuinely praised the Lord? Is He not worthy of all we can offer and so much more? Maybe you just want to come and praise Him for all He is, all that He has done, and all that He is going to do. Whatever the need is in your life, I urge you to come today!

¹ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Matthew 16-23.