

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross March 24-29

Day 18 Tuesday

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King Pt II

John 12:12-19

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!”

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

Anger, Frustration and Jealousy From the Opponents of Jesus

Let's recap and list the events that inspired the plot to kill Jesus:

- **1)** Jesus is treated to an honorary dinner at the home of Lazarus, whom He has recently raised from death.
- **2)** At this dinner, Lazarus' sister, Mary, anoints Jesus with expensive oil.
- **3)** Jesus then enters Jerusalem to great fanfare, bringing fears that His popularity will attract the anger of the Roman Empire.
- **4)** That anger inspires a murder plot against Lazarus.
- **5)** After being approached by non-Jewish seekers, Jesus offers a final plea for people to understand His ministry. In effect, these are the last public words spoken by Jesus in the gospel of John.

Matthew 21:9-11 The Triumphal Entry

9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

11 So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

“Who is this?”

Those who did not know Jesus wanted to know who He was and what all the commotion was about. The people longed for a Messiah to come and be king over them. They desperately wanted God to show Himself through a savior who would overthrow the Romans and return Israel to her former days of glory.

They did not realize that was not what the Messiah had come to do at this time (Zechariah 9:9). That Messiah was predicted to come first on a donkey should have been a clue—donkeys are not warlike animals. It will not be until Christ's second coming (Revelation 19:11–16) that He fulfills the role of Conqueror. The following verse shows that understanding about Jesus was confused and inadequate. All of this was exactly what Jesus expected and needed to happen to fulfill His mission (Matthew 17:22–23).

Luke 19:37-40 The Triumphal Entry

37 Then, as He was now drawing near 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 they had seen,

38 saying: “ ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”

40 But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

The Stones Would Cry Out

If these should hold their peace, the stones, which lie before you, would cry out - That is, God would raise up some still more unlikely instruments to declare his praise. For the power of God will not return empty.

The occasion of the great King's visit to his city (Matthew 5:35) was so momentous that, if man withheld his praise, inanimate nature would lend its acclamations. If man did not recognize who Jesus was, certainly creation knew who the King was and would immediately give the savior the praise and honor that was due His name.