

## Matthew 21: 1-11 The Triumphal Entry of the Messiah – King

Introduction: In our text today we see the Messiah King make His triumphal entry into the capital city where His throne will be.

### I. The journey from Jericho to Jerusalem

- A. A great multitude followed Jesus out of Jericho and accompanied Him to Jerusalem.
- B. At Jericho they heard two blind men call Him the Messiah.
- C. They heard Jesus acknowledge that He is Messiah by asking them what they wanted from Him.
- D. They saw Jesus give sight to these blind men.

### II. The arrival on the outskirts of Jerusalem, verse 1.

- A. They were near Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives at Bethphage.
  - 1. This means they were about two miles from Jerusalem.
  - 2. They were separated from Jerusalem only by a little brook and its valley.
  - 3. From the Mount of Olives they could see Jerusalem across the valley.
- B. This means also that they had already come through Bethany which was very near to Bethphage.
  - 1. Matthew makes no mention of Bethany at all.
  - 2. At Bethany Lazarus was raised from the dead.
  - 3. Both Bethany and Bethphage would be electrified by such an event.
- C. By now the multitude which followed Jesus was larger than ever and virtually all now considered him to be the Messiah.

### III. Preparation for the triumphal entry.

- A. Jesus sent two disciples into the village to get an ass and her colt, verses 1-3.
  - 1. He knew where the ass and colt would be.
  - 2. He knew the ass would be tied.
  - 3. He knew the owners would object to somebody taking them.
  - 4. He knew that once they knew that Jesus had need of the ass and colt they would gladly send them.
- B. It had long been the practice of kings to make a grand entrance into any major city they entered.
  - 1. If he had been engaged in war, he would enter the city on a horse.
  - 2. If he had just had a major victory, he would enter on a white horse.
  - 3. If he were on a mission of peace, he would enter on an ass or a mule.
- C. Jesus one day would ride the white horse, but on this occasion He chose to ride the ass.
  - 1. He came not to set up His throne.
  - 2. He came rather to go to the cross.
- D. This was in keeping with a prophecy made by Zachariah, verses 4-5.

### IV. The grand entry into Jerusalem.

- A. The disciples improvised and used their own clothes as royal drapery for the ass and the colt, verses 6-7.
- B. Jesus then rode into Jerusalem on them.  
(Technically, He rode on the colt accompanied by its mother. See Luke.)
- C. The multitude hailed Him as their king, verses 8-9.
  - 1. They rolled out the red carpet for Him.

2. That is – they made a carpet before Him out of palm branches and their own garments.
3. With several thousand voices strong they shouted praises.

V. The impact upon the city of Jerusalem.

- A. The city was moved greatly, verse 10.
  1. The effect was like a bombshell.
  2. It was actually more like an earthquake.
  3. It was not physically an earthquake, but it was mentally and emotionally.
- B. They had long awaited the Messiah.
  1. Now they could hear the shouts proclaiming Him as Messiah as the procession slowly came down the slope from the Mount of Olives.
  2. They could see the figure of a rider on the colt exactly as the prophet said He would come.
  3. They could see Him come up the slope and into their city.
  4. At a time when they least expected Him, here He came with all the royal grandeur of a king.
  5. The people of Jerusalem were shocked.
  6. They must have wanted to join in the shouting and proclaim Him king, but they did not know whether to or not.
- C. So they asked, “Who is this?”, verses 10-11. (Can you imagine their dismay when they were told, “He is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth.”)?

VI. No rejoicing for Jesus.

- A. In all the rejoicing on that occasion, there was no rejoicing for Jesus.
- B. According to Luke, Jesus wept for the people of Jerusalem.
  1. He knew that they would reject Him as their king.
  2. He knew that they would reject Him as their Savior.
  3. He knew that within a matter of hours He would be nailed to the cross.
  4. He knew that within a very short time they would be in the fires of hell.

Conclusion: This same Jesus is going to make another triumphal entry into Jerusalem one of these days. He is going to come in the clouds and He will ride the white war-horse. He will touch down at the Mount of Olives and He will come victorious into the city of Jerusalem. If you have not already done so, trust Him as your Savior. Crown Him as your king.

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