

Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt,^[a] the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

This Sunday, we took a detour from our study in 1 Thessalonians in lieu of Holy Week. Our aim was to help our church prepare to celebrate the resurrection by remembering the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. There are several details in Matthew's account of what we have historically called 'Palm Sunday' that seem insignificant, but point to a much fuller view of Jesus's knowledge, sovereignty, & character. Read **Matthew 21:1-11** with your group.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

In **v. 3**, Jesus gives the disciples instructions of what to do and what to say if they were questioned. In **Luke 19:33**, it is recorded that the events play out exactly as Jesus told the disciples.

1. What can we learn about Jesus' knowledge from this situation?

2. In **v. 5**, Matthew quotes **Zechariah 9:9**. How is this prophecy fulfilled in the Gospels?

3. What does this teach us about Jesus's sovereignty?

¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

4. Why is Jesus choosing to ride to Jerusalem on a colt significant?

5. What does this show us about Jesus's character?

6. In **v. 8** we see people spreading their cloaks on the ground and waving palm branches. Read **2 Kings 9:13**. What does this passage teach us about how the people received Jesus on this day?

7. The word 'hosanna' literally means, 'Save now!' What do you think the people wanted Jesus to save?

8. How was this different than what Jesus had in mind?

APPLICATION

9. From this account, we see Jesus's omniscience. We know that He knows all. Are you able to trust that He has a plan when life gets uncertain? What are things that have happened in your life that have caused you to doubt His omniscience?

10. From this account, we also get a glimpse of God's sovereignty. He is always in control and even orchestrates events to fulfill prophecy. Can you think of a time that was difficult, to trust that Jesus was still in control, when life seemed out of control?

11. Why is remembering and celebrating the resurrection good for our spiritual wellbeing?