

Palm Sunday

Riverside Youth Bible Study

April 5, 2020

Matthew 21:1-9

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

*⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Jesus rides into Jerusalem as the long-awaited Messiah, and a large crowd gathers to welcome him with honor by spreading their cloaks on the road, waving palms, and shouting Hosanna!

The word Hosanna translates to “save us, we pray”. They are filled with hope that Jesus will be their savior and free them from the oppression they’ve been experiencing. Jesus is King, but not like any king they’ve experienced or heard about before. A king would never be seen riding a donkey, and yet Jesus chooses to ride on a donkey his disciples borrowed from a village. This fulfills a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah, and shows us the character of Jesus.

What does it say about Jesus, and the type of king He is, that he chooses to ride in on a donkey and not a horse?

Palm branches symbolize victory, so even as they are crying out for Jesus to save them, the crowd is using a symbol of victory to line the path. They have faith that Jesus will find victory. Palm Sunday is a celebration of our faith in the victory of Jesus.

The victory Jesus will find in Jerusalem looks different than what one would typically expect as well. The victory of Jesus is found on the cross, through the ultimate act of servitude. The willingness of Christ to die for God's people is what ultimately allows Him to find victory over sin and death. Now, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us find victory over the adversaries and challenges in our own lives.

Name 3 things in your life you have faith Jesus can help you find victory in/over:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

As we move through Holy Week, hold on to the faith that Jesus is our Savior, and he will be victorious. In the darkness of Good Friday, remember that Sunday is coming and the tomb **will** be empty. The same is true for all of us who claim the name of Christ as Savior.

My prayer for you this week comes from 1 John 5:4-

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.