

## Palm Sunday 2023

### Mark 11:1-11

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; 2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. 3 And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here." 4 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. 5 But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" 6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. 8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' 10 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**I want you to imagine driving by a church and you see people outside celebrating**

A) You watch as a young couple walks through a crowd of cheering people.

B) He is dressed **in a black Tux** - she is dressed in a beautiful white dress

C) They get into a car - these words are written on the back window in white shoe polish

1) **JUST MARRIED!!!!!!**

D) Behind the car are strings tied with soda cans....

**With just one glance you would know a lot about this scene.**

A) You would know that this couple has just got married.

B) **Their Past** You would also have some idea that they probably dated for a while prior to this day 1) as their relationship grew - You'd assume that this man probably knelt down on one knee to propose

C) And you'd know that this couple spent the last several months **planning the largest party they'd ever throw.**

**You'd also know something about this couple's future.**

A) Start with a honeymoon - a week of so.....

B) You would know that they'd return to their lives after that and have to make adjustments

1) Like sharing a bathroom, and closet space with the opposite sex

C) You would guess that in a few years they might welcome a tiny, **screaming person into the world.**

D) And that they would grow to learn the joys and heartaches of being **called Mommy and Daddy.**

E) Isn't it amazing that in just one glance, you'd be able to have a pretty good guess about

1) **their past, the present, and the future.**

**The scene before us today here in Mark 11 is known as the triumphal entry of Jesus.**

A) It is a scene that is pregnant with meaning both past present and future.

B) We want to consider that today - the meaning both Past - Prophetic - Present - the people there

1) And Future how it relates to us today.

C) This event is also known as Palm Sunday - Note v.8 again - **And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.**

D) John's gospel reveals to us those were Palm branches - they spread on the road. -Palm Sunday

**So Here Jesus is making his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.**

A) Only time in Jesus ministry where he orchestrated Public display of Praise.

B) In every other instance – Jesus would always leave when the CROWDS would start to proclaim His Praises

C) Or when Crowds would seek to make Him / their King !!!

D) But here we see that **He Orchestrated** the whole thing !!!!- CONSIDER

**He Picked the TIME: Beginning of the Passover week.**

A) This was symbolic - because during the Passover feast - lambs were slain

B) A feast where a lamb is slain for every 10 family members

C) Josephus tells us that at this time they were sacrificing on average **200,000 lambs at Passover**

1) John the Baptist - **Behold the lamb..... world**

**D) The whole process started with an examination by the priest as the lambs had to be without spot**

1) Or blemish

**If you read Matthew's gospel it reveals how Jesus was intensely examined by the religious leaders during this week -**

A) They were hoping to bring some form of accusation against him - found none

B) He was the lamb without spot or blemish - even **Pilate declared** after his examination of Jesus -

1) I find no fault in this man

C) So Jesus picked the TIME- Passover

1) He was the Final Passover lamb

**Jesus ALSO picked THE DAY**

A) The day that Jesus WAS riding into Jerusalem was the 6th of Nisan

B) Strategic The Prophecy in Daniel 9 - maybe the most fascinating prophecy in the Bible

1) Not enough time today to go into it in detail

C) Summarize: Daniel prophesied that a decree would be given by an emperor

1) The decree would give the people of Israel the permission to go and rebuild Jerusalem

**D) The city had been left desolate after the invasion of the Babylonians**

**Daniel decreed that once that decree was given it would be exactly 173,880 days until the Messiah came**

A) Well the decree was given by King Artaxerxes – March 14 445 BC –

B) Start the count 173,880 days brings you to April 6<sup>th</sup> AD 32

C) The very day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem for his triumphal entry.

**It was an amazing day - incredible fulfillment of this prophecy**

A) A day of celebrating as the people lined the streets chanting - Hosanna = SAVE NOW

B) But it was also a day of Sadness - Luke's gospel tells us that as Jesus neared the city - crying

1) Really Convulsing - wailing

C) Why was he so sad?

**The People missed it - they were not ready for his coming Luke 19:42-44**

**"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."**

**Jesus is SAD because he is seeing ahead into their future**

A)He is knows what is to happen in 37 short years  
AD 70 - Roman invasion - General Titus

B)The temple would be destroyed and the people dispersed

C)Israel as a Nation would cease to exist for another 2,000 yrs - until reborn in 1948 –

D)What a contrast - Jesus is weeping – the Crowd is chanting –

E)He picked the TIME - He picked the DAY

**He picked the PLACE the Eastern gate leading into the city of Jerusalem**

A)According to the Prophecy in Zechariah 14:4 how the Messiah would come from the East

B)The RABBI’S taught he would come through the Eastern gate:

C)The first time publically that Jesus was making it clear who he was. - THE MESSIAH

**He picked the MEANS:**

A)He would ride in on a donkey that had never been ridden -

B)Why a donkey? Three reasons  
**#1 Fulfill Prophecy**

Zech. 9:9 *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.*

B)This Prophecy WAS given by the Prophet Zech. over 550 yrs before this event

C)There He Prophesied of HOW the Messiah would ride into the city of Jerusalem  
1)Declaring Himself to be their King !!!

**#2 COMING ON A Donkey highlighted the nature of His Kingdom**

A)His Kingship was marked by Humility

**Behold Your King is coming to you – but He comes Lowly riding on a donkey -**

B)Incredible contrast - The Roman Soldiers observing this Scene must have been Laughing

C)The Romans were experts at parades & official public events.

**We call this event “the Triumphal Entry,” but no Roman would have used that term.**

A)An official Roman triumph was indeed something to BEHOLD

B)A Roman general had to kill at least 5,000 enemy soldiers to merit a Triumphant parade

1)This is what it looked like

C)When a Roman general came back to Rome after a complete conquest of an enemy, of 5,000+

1)He would ride into the city on the back of a GREAT WHITE STALLION

**In tow behind him would be His Trophies**

A)The cities captured King & Soldiers - Jewels or spoil he collected would be on displayed .

B)And behind all of that would be his own Army !!!  
1)Marching proudly

C)People would line the streets - flower pedals on the ground - sweet aroma of crushed beef

D)In the distance would be the smell of barbecue for an elaborate feast awaited

**Here comes Jesus riding into Jerusalem - not on white Stallion - a little donkey**

A)Common people waving palm branches

**B)No conquest to point to - no jewels or spoil - no enemy in tow**

C)No soldiers marching - proudly and stately

**But here is what is interesting - In about 40 days from this event - His Victory is seen**

A)5,000 souls would be added to his Kingdom –  
3,000 after Peter’s first sermon - Acts 2

B)Another 2,000 shortly thereafter - Acts 4

C)So he comes to riding on a donkey to fulfill prophecy -

1)And to highlight the nature of his Kingdom

**#3 He comes on a DONKEY to present a picture**

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; 2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it.<sup>3</sup> And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here."

**Notice that phrase in V.3 again say, 'The Lord has need of it'**

A)Very interesting: Paradox – that the Lord would have need of anything

**B)But we read Mark 4 that He needed to borrow a boat to sit in to preach –**

C)He needed 5 loaves and 2 fish – feed crowd.

1)He needed a borrowed tomb...Buried so he could rise

D)Here he borrows a donkey

**Listen: Our Lord has chosen to put himself in a places where He has a need!**

A)Paul said He who was rich has become poor for our sakes

B)Why did he chose to become poor? One of reason:

1)So he could partner with us in what he is doing

C)Whether it is fishing for men – *"Peter can I borrow your boat"*

D)Or feeding a Multitude *Son, can I use your food*

**E)OR HERE - A DONKEY for his triumphant entry**

**But Understand the Lord needs us like I need my 5 year old grandson to help me with a project**

A)Last Saturday - loading up my truck to go to the dump - Josiah 5 yr old was helping me.

B)Now -Didn't need his help - took longer - patience

**C)Things he couldn't lift - lacking strength**

1)But boy the smile on his face - helping my papi - so excited - did a good job too

D)Joy to my heart

**I think that is how God sees this - doesn't need us - but loves to bless us**

A)The Lord Chooses to partner w/ us to Grow us & to Bless us !!!!

B)He loves to see the look on our faces when he does something and we get to be a part of it

C)Been rightfully said – *Without Him – we can't / Without us He won't*

D)Question is are we willing vessels?

**See there are times when I will ask Josiah - do you want to help me? No thank you - no busy**

A)I am SAD - not because I need his help- but because I know he is going to miss out

B)Miss out on some fun - miss out on learning something -

1)And usually when he is done helping me - We get ice cream

C)I think - Sad - His loss!

**And I wonder sometimes if that is God's perspective - he invites us to partner with him - giving serving**

A)We say - no thanks - too busy with my agenda

B)Sad for us - miss out on experiencing that with him

1)Miss out on the fun - he has for us

C)The treat that comes with being used by God

D)He invites us - doesn't force us - THIS WEEK

**I THINK it was perfect that Jesus choose to ride into Jerusalem on a Donkey -**

A)Donkeys are stubborn and strong willed animals

B)Remind you of anyone ?

C)I won't ask you to raise your hand for this one - but how many of you if honest - are stubborn

1)Strong willed -

D)Now you can raise your hand for this one - How many of you are married to someone who is

1)Stubborn and strong willed

E)So great that Jesus chooses to work through stubborn and flawed vessels like us

1)So good so Patient

But check this out - the picture gets even better

A)Before the Donkey could be ridden it had to be loosed

B)So too for us - before Jesus could work in our lives we had to be loosed - from sin and shame

C)Remember Lazarus - Dead 4 days - Jesus calls him out of the grave - LOOSE HIM

1)Take off those grave clothes

D)Jesus does to us - He saves us and he frees us -

E)New Creation - old things passed away ....NEW

Before a Donkey could be released it needed to be Redeemed!

Ex 13:13 "But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

A)Now this is an interesting picture: The Lord instructs before a donkey was born – a lamb had to die so the donkey could live

B)So interesting verse because he links the redeeming of the Donkey with redeeming the Son  
7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, Ephesians 1:7

The word Redeem means to buy back - something that was lost or imprisoned

A)We were LOST and in Bondage to sin!

B)Jesus redeemed us by HIS BLOOD -

1)Paid the price with his own blood

C)Freed from the Penalty of sin - he paid the price  
1)took the punishment we deserved

D)Freed from the Presence of sin - Forgiven and forgotten

E)Freed from the Power of sin -  
1)No longer controlled by our flesh

Free to walk in a newness of life

A)Free to be a vessel that He can use for his glory

B)Now Jesus wants to lead our lives - take us places we could never imagine

C)RELEASED US / REDEEMED US / / He will REWARD US !!!!

D)Close with this

One evening a woman was driving home when she noticed a huge truck behind her that was driving uncomfortably close.

She stepped on the gas to gain some distance from the truck, but when she sped up the truck did too. The faster she drove, the faster the truck drove .

The woman started to freak out - this DUDE is following me- so she exited the freeway. But the truck stayed with her.

The woman then turned up a main street, hoping to lose her pursuer in traffic. But the truck ran a red light and continued the chase.

Reaching the point of panic, the woman whipped her car into a gas station and bolted out of her car screaming for help.

The truck driver sprang from his truck and ran toward her car. Yanking the back door open, the driver pulled out a man hidden in the backseat.

See From his high vantage point, the truck driver had spotted a would-be rapist in the woman's car.

The woman was running from the wrong person

- The chase was not his effort to harm her but to save her even at the cost of his own safety.

**God is a pursuer- he has been called the hound of heaven - Pursues us - not to hurt us - SAVE US**

**Many people run from God** provision of atonement on the cross, fearing what He might do to them.

But His plans are for good not evil--TO GIVE YOU  
A FUTURE AND A HOPE

**Many Yrs ago there was a HUGE billboard off the 110 FWY in Louisiana -** It stood high above the city just as you start up the Mississippi River bridge.

On it was a picture of Jesus Christ hanging on the cross of Calvary, head bowed. **The caption underneath says in bold letters, "It's Your Move!"**

What a powerful thought. God has already taken the initiative in salvation. **Christ died for you. Now--it's your move!**