

The Road to Calvary Lesson 6

The King is Here!

A Bible Study Lesson of the Mount Zion Church

3801 McKelvey Rd., Bridgeton, MO

Written by: Dr. Ken Patterson



We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!



Introduction: Our modern world produces award shows, and fancy events where people walk the red carpet in a display of importance. The paparazzi huddle together en masse and take pictures while news reporters clamor to get moments with the stars before they pass. These scenes of royalty and grandeur play out on our TV screens and portray a desire to acknowledge those whom we feel are important and worthy of celebration. This was the case as Jesus came to Jerusalem during the Passover Feast. Little did the people realize that their recognition of Jesus as King would signal the beginning of our savior's last days before the cross.

The following lesson is purposed to help readers understand the events surrounding Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and why the actions of that day remind each of us that Jesus is a king like no other king.



Key Verse:

- Mark 11: 1-10

Supporting Verses:

- Mark 19: 6,
- Matthew 15: 54,
- Romans 5: 12-15,
- Isaiah 53: 7-11,
- John 3: 16-17,
- John 1: 29-32

I. The Timing of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

The Passover Feast is a Spring festival in which hundreds of thousands to millions of people would be present in Jerusalem. One Biblical historian of that day records one Passover Feast of having approximately 2.7 million pilgrims coming to celebrate the events of Exodus 12 in which the Lord gives instructions to Moses as to how He will bring upon Egypt the 10th plague and kill the firstborn of all living animals in Egypt, but PASS OVER the houses of Israel that have obediently painted

their doorpost with the blood of a perfect lamb. That event marked the beginning of the yearly calendar for God’s people. It was an event which marked a new beginning for them and to commemorate the PASSING OVER of the Death Angel, a celebration was observed each year.

The symbolism of the Passover cannot be minimized because in the Exodus Passover, we see the role that Jesus would come to play on Calvary. Let’s compare the two. In the space below,

Passover Events: Exodus 12	Jesus’ Death on the Cross: Mark 19: 6, Matthew 15: 54, Romans 5: 12-15, Isaiah 53: 7-11, John 3: 16-17

As we study the events of Passover and Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, it is necessary to understand that this event was no small occurrence. As such, when comparing what Jesus did through His sacrifice, we also should note the magnitude of the event. Not only are the two similar, they also represent (for those who accept Jesus) a beginning and a new beginning for those who are covered by the blood of the perfect lamb. For them it was an actual lamb. For us it is “The Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1: 29-32)

II. The Ride into Jerusalem

Jesus comes to Jerusalem riding on a young colt. This reference could have meant a young horse, but meant a young donkey. As Jesus uses the colt, he ensures that the owner understand that they are not stealing rather they are borrowing the colt for the Lord's purposes. The possibility is that the owner may have been familiar with Jesus and would not have objected to His usage of the animal. This also is significant as Zechariah 9: 9 prophesized that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem in a lowly manner on a donkey. Jesus fulfills all prophecy, therefore we should not be surprised in this action.

Upon Jesus' arrival, Mark records that people were celebrating Him by throwing branches on the ground and shouting:

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!"

The implications of these cheers are somewhat masked in the meaning of the word Hosanna. The term is one that has been misunderstood but when correctly applied makes sense. The term *hosanna* literally translates as "please help us" The last phrases *hosanna in the highest* literally translates as "The highest, please help us". When put together we can see a plea for help from the one who is acknowledged as the highest. The only one considered as "the highest" would be God. Therefore, in their chanting and celebration of Jesus they are asking for help from God. What help are they asking for, however?

From a *political standpoint* we can identify that a desire to overthrow the Roman oppression of the Jews would have been part of their plea for help. This issue of political "help" becomes the basis of the crimes against Rome that the Jewish leaders use against Jesus. In Luke 23, Jesus is accused of three crimes: plotting an overthrow of the government, tax evasion, and proclaiming He is King (earthly). While Jesus never did these actions, one can see how his popularity and His entry into the city could be used against Him.

From a *religious standpoint* we find this again becomes a tool used by the religious leaders to condemn Jesus. They did not accept or like Jesus as son of God.

They could accept Him a little bit as a teacher or prophet, though they questioned by whose authority He taught. The religious leaders understood that the one who would restore David’s kingdom was the Messiah. The Messiah was to be one who was kingly as David, yet Jesus did not characterize the king they expected. Thus, when asked in Luke 22: 66-71 if Jesus was the son of God, they are looking for a reason to execute Him. Leviticus 24: 16 declares death to the one who blasphemes the name of God.

As Jesus comes to Jerusalem, we see that perhaps what is seen as a triumphal entry might actually be extremely dangerous for Jesus. Yet, we have understood from Mark’s writing that Jesus fully understood the implications of His mission and the way the week would end.

III. The King Has Come

While we acknowledge that the people may not have totally understood the purpose of Jesus’ ministry, the cries of the crowd do point to one important fact. The King has arrived!

With your new understanding, look again at the words used by the crowd and identify the blessings you can find in the words about Jesus.

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!”

Phrase	Meaning for us
Hosanna	
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord	
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord	
Hosanna in the highest	

- In what ways can you acknowledge in your life that Jesus is our King and because of His arrival we can celebrate?
- How do you share this reality with others?

Final thought: Remember, the work of Jesus allows the punishment of sin to **PASS OVER** each of us who has accepted Jesus. When you consider the work of Jesus did to save mankind and as you share the good news, remember to be just like the crowd and shout the praises of Jesus!