

MORE THAN A PROPHET?

Jesus fulfilled the prophecies associated with Israel's long-awaited King.

MATTHEW 21:1-11



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

JANUARY 24, 2018/JANUARY 28, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT AND MAIN IDEA

Text: MATTHEW 21:9 (NIV), *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!"*

Main Idea: *Jesus fulfilled the prophecies associated with Israel's long-awaited King.*

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Have you ever seen a world leader in person? If so, who and what was the occasion?
- What is the appeal of seeing a world leader in person? What would our community need to do to prepare for a visit by a world or national leader?

Today we are going to look at the passage in Matthew where Jesus makes his entry into Jerusalem for the Passover Festival and the unusual preparations He asked the disciples to make.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Having passed through Jericho, Jesus made His way to Jerusalem for Passover. His disciples accompanied Him. He had already told them about what would await Him there, but they could not comprehend the reality of the cross and the empty tomb just yet. As they approached Jerusalem, Jesus directed His disciples to prepare for His entry into the city. Once He arrived, a large crowd celebrated, although they considered Him to be only a prophet.

After Jesus entered the city, He went directly to the temple. There he overturned the tables set up for exchanging the regional forms of money for the proper temple currency, and He overturned the chairs of those selling doves. Jesus declared that the temple would be a house of prayer, not a center of crooked commerce. In order to validate His declaration about the temple from God's Word, He quoted Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11.

Jesus stayed at the temple that day and healed blind and lame people who came to Him. As He ministered to them, crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Their enthusiastic praise outraged the religious leaders. They approached Jesus and questioned Him about what the crowds shouted in praise for Him. Jesus assured the religious leaders that the response of the crowds was appropriate according to Psalm 8:2. With His reply, He underscored the stark contrast between religious leaders who refused to acknowledge Him as the Messiah and those who honored Him with their heartfelt praise. At the end of the day, Jesus left the temple area and went to Bethany, a village on the edge of Jerusalem.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

THE KING'S PEROGATIVE

> Read Matthew 21:1-5

- What would happen today if two people followed Jesus' instructions in verses 2-3?
- What did Jesus' mode of transportation portray about Him?
- What type of king and kingdom had the people expected?

THE KING'S CELEBRATION

> Read Matthew 21:6-9

- How would your life be different if you responded like the disciples in verse 6? What are the benefits of unquestioning obedience?
- Describe what the image of Jesus on a donkey means to you personally.
- How does Jesus' gentle entrance into Jerusalem correspond to His entry into the lives of people who receive Him as Lord and Savior today?

THE PEOPLES CONFUSION

> Read Matthew 21:10-11

- ° Refer to several Bible translations to compare the people's reactions when Jesus entered on the donkey. Why were they shaken, stunned, and/or surprised?
- ° Why was it easier for the people to call Jesus a prophet than to acknowledge Him as the Son of God?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

- ° Why is the sovereignty of Jesus, the promised Messiah, paramount to our faith?

Personal Challenge: Take time this week to evaluate your trust in the sovereignty of Jesus. Do you worship Him with reverence and praise, even when you have questions? Do your actions demonstrate that Jesus is indeed King and sovereign over all creation? How can you communicate your beliefs through your life?

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read Matthew 21:33-45
- Have you ever seen your friend or child get rejected? How did you respond?
- Next week we will answer the question, "What if I reject Jesus?"

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

28th - Exodus 21-22; Psalm 12; Acts 4 | **29th** - Exodus 23-24; Psalm 14; Acts 5 | **30th** - Exodus 25-27; Acts 6 | **31st** - Exodus 28-29; Acts 7 | **1st** - Exodus 30-32; Acts 8 | **2nd** - Exodus 33-34; Psalm 16; Acts 9 | **3rd** - Exodus 35-36; Acts 10