

## LESSON 3



## JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

*Scripture Text: Matthew 21:1-11*

It is Passover time in Jerusalem. Thousands of pilgrims are traveling to the city for the yearly feast and worship. One among them, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, has a greater purpose. He is coming to die. The journey to Jerusalem was almost finished. Jesus and the disciples climbed the slope of the Mount of Olives. Jesus knew a donkey and her colt were tied in Bethany, and He sent two disciples to bring them. They were not proud horses of war but lowly donkeys of peace and service. This was a fulfillment of prophecy.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.* *Matthew 21:3*

### Finding the Colt

**Matthew 21:1-3** Coming from Jericho, Jesus and His disciples retreat to the slope of Olivet. Close by is the village of Bethphage. **Two disciples** are sent to bring from Bethphage **an ass tied, and a colt with her**. It was an unbroken colt **whereon never man sat**. On this eventful day the Lord had need of something. He, the King of the universe, had to borrow the colt of a lowly donkey to ride into Jerusalem in triumph. Jesus knew this trip to Jerusalem meant suffering and death. Let us never think of Him as one who was pursued by His enemies and at last overtaken and brought to wicked judgment. He faced the tragic facts of life and walked toward them. The only answer these disciples were to give was **The Lord hath need of them**. Jesus did not require much from the villager who owned the animal, but He required what the man had. The Lord today has needs; He needs what WE have. Nothing is too lowly to be used in His service. Herod had nothing to contribute on that day, neither had the Roman Emperor. But the humble villager who had a donkey's colt did have something the Lord needed, and he was willing to give it for the cause of Christ. What might our reaction be if someone walked into our driveway and began to drive our automobile away and the only reply we received from him was that the Lord had need of it?

### Prophecy Fulfilled

**Matthew 21:4-9** **All this was done, that it might be fulfilled . . . thy King cometh . . .** This whole thing was the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy (Zechariah 9:9-10). For this purpose Jesus came into the world. Pomp and ceremony mark the doings of earthly kings. Here the King of kings advanced to His death. He owned **the cattle on a thousand hills**, yet borrowed, not a horse of war, but a lowly donkey of peace and service. It was unbroken, yet miraculously responded to Jesus' control at a time when the happenings around the animal were such as to cause it to be completely out of control.

**A very great multitude**—Many gathered because of the miracles Jesus had performed along the way. They came from Jerusalem to meet the One who raised the dead and opened the blind eyes. **Spread their garments in the way**—branches from the trees—honoring Jesus. The crowds waved palm branches, gathered twigs from the trees, and made from these and their own garments a carpet over which Jesus could ride. No wonder the donkey stayed calm through all of this. Here was Heaven's King riding on his back over earth's highways. The Jews had sought to stone Him, yet He fearlessly let all see Him come. He rides to His death but weeps for His rejecters. He owns all yet

shows no pride. He is King yet has no adornments.

This was unplanned by man but certainly planned by God. He told His prophets of it hundreds of years before. Fulfillment of prophecy is proof of the truth of the Bible and of the deity of Christ. Without seeing and beforehand, Jesus knew where the colt was and what would be done and said. Superhuman knowledge and mastery over nature are honors belonging to God. These are signs of deity.

### Not All Joy

**Matthew 21:10-11** And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved—Josephus estimates two and one-half million to have attended the Passover. A great multitude, indeed, witnessed this great event in history.

In the midst of the joy was grief. Jesus was grieving that although He came to save all, not all would be saved. Luke tells us that Jesus **beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known . . . the things which belong unto thy peace!** There, laid out before Him was a city, beyond it a nation, and beyond that a world so blinded by sin as to refuse the thing it needed most. This, not His own coming suffering and death, brought tears from the heart of Jesus.

God was ready to give to the world what the people had waited for and longed for during centuries, namely, the Messiah and His kingdom. But these foolish ones only looked around and in cold indifference, as the Messiah came into the city, asked, "Who is this?" No doubt, many of these ones who cried **Hosanna to the son of David** at this hour, would cry, **Crucify him** in just a few days. Jesus is the King of the universe. Dear one, is He your King? **And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.** Here was their King, the Son of God, and when they were asked, they did not have the correct answer to give. They thought He was a mere prophet. A greater than a prophet was here, but these people, even after He had done such great works, did not recognize Him as Who He really was. What would your answer be?

### JUST A THOUGHT

**We cannot all play the same instrument, but  
we can all be in the same key.**