

Sp. Yr - April 7, 74 - 5.15 - WXRI  
Hartford, March 31, 84 AM. ✓  
Lake Drummond - March 31, 96 ✓  
Northwest - Apr 16 2000 ✓

Palm Sunday -  
Crowd Control Sunday

THE KING COMES TO THE CITY

Matthew 21:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

There was a record of a musical God's Spell at Ford Theatre, Washington, D. C. Many letters were received from children who saw this modern dramatization of the story of Jesus. One child wrote, "I didn't like the end because Jesus died. Can you change that?"

We may assume that this young child had never heard of the offense of the cross and yet in her own way she began to protest against the death of Jesus.

This which had been predicted in the Old Testament, the idea of a suffering Messiah. Even Christ's own disciples raised their voices in disapproval about his death. But Calvary became history.

But the death of Jesus begins with this dramatic and extra-ordinary welcome to the capitol city when he rode into Jerusalem, on the foal of an ass. And the crowd greeted him waving palm branches. We call it the triumphant entry.

On our Christian calendar, we call it Palm Sunday. "Crowd Control" People into crowds - Stadiums filled Base Ball, Foot Ball, Soccer, Rock Star concerts, Shopping Malls - Dept. Store Sales events - love is part of crowds - Political rallies, Don't Sell Yourself to the Crowds! Army, Riots

Now this was an unrehearsed parade. It had not been planned in this way - this dramatic event. Because Rome would have perfected the parade with splendor. And with disciplined and glittering ranks of Roman legends.

This Galilean preacher was going to claim that he was the Messiah and he was the king of Israel. He deliberately arranges this public demonstration of his claim.

A great celebration was on in Jerusalem. Once a year the people gathered for the feast of the passover. It was their independence day, their 4th of July, it marked in their minds the deliverance of their fathers from the land of Egypt. The time when the blood was to be put on the door posts, and the death angel was to pass over. Hence, it was called the passover. Normally the city had about 40,000 inhabitants - but people would gather from all over the countryside, and the population would swell to beyond one or two million.

3 Crowds: The Galileans were there, the hungry crowd from Jer was there, The hidden crowd <sup>There</sup>  
There were pilgrims from all over the country. And for three years Jesus had avoided publicity. But now he has changed.

On Friday, he raised Lazarus from the dead.

On Saturday, he remained in Bethany, where Mary anointed his feet - John 12:2.

On Sunday, the first Palm Sunday, as we are celebrating - he came into prominence. Jesus enters Jerusalem. This is five days before he is going to be put to death, on the cross. The passover was held on the 14th day of the month. And this was the 10th day.

Now later, some of these same people are going to cry out, "crucify him".

Never, Never Sell your Soul to the Crowd!

Jesus had restrained his followers up til now. And this seems to be a trip that was organized when the time was right for the prediction to be fulfilled.

As he entered the city, it was not like a prince who would come, or a revolutionary leader who would ride him to deliver his people. Christ comes as a prince of peace.

Many men had entered the city before. *Since*

General Edmond Allenby entered Jerusalem in World War I - Nov. 11, 1917. He took the Holy City from the Turks. He made his entry by the gate, Joppa. He came on foot hoping that the people would look upon him as a friend - as an instrument of peace. He took control of the city in the name of King George V. And he tried to make the city worthy of its tradition.

But more than one conquerer had made his way into that historic city. There have been conflicts with race, religions, and tensions.

The entry of Jesus was made after shedding tears. The Bible tells us that he looked down and he wept. Because he sensed the end was near for these people. And they did not realize this. But he knew that it was very near. He had prayed for them. He had sought them out. And they had rejected him.

Keep in mind this was a plain procession. Just his close friends were beside him. And we can imagine after he has looked over the city, how he comes down in this beautiful array of garments and palms.

#### I. WHAT KIND OF AN ENTRANCE WAS IT?

Voluntary, on his own free will, his conscience ordered him. No one pushed Jesus nor compelled him. Nothing but that inner force of dictation. It was the principle of Christianity. It is voluntary through and through.

It was public. He came through the regular gate - no side door. He came in the daylight. He had nothing to hide - he was not ashamed. He had no compromises to make. He had no political pledges to pay. He came in the broad open public.

Triumphant - it symbolized Christ kingly rule. There was no committee to welcome him. No band to play. There were no prominent figures that had a hand in this entrance into the city.

It was final. He had been there before. He had been brought there as a boy at the age of 12. And now he was coming in and he was making this entrance in a simple way.

V. 2 - Provision was made. He sent two disciples. Christ needs co-workers today.

It was very simple - no trumpets, no chariots - but a beast of burden. Jesus was not to come as a king of war, a ruler of war - but a ruler of peace.

In Judges 5:10 - we are told that the Judges rode upon a white beast.

I Kings 1:33 - It speaks of Solomon riding upon the king's beast in triumph as he is anointed king over Israel. Here is a symbol that Jesus was close to the folks. He would not ride above their heads but down on their level. It was a pronouncement of kingdom principles. That JESUS was going to triumph without an Army. And I think this is still true. It is not by power nor might, but by his spirit that he triumphs and he conquers today.

V. 3  
Jesus said if there are any questions about this colt, then you may tell the man that "the Lord hath need of him." Now these were used - it was not his own. It was a borrowed one. They were used in that part of the country. And as I pointed out the Judges of Israel rode upon such a beast. Judges 5:10, Judges 12:14. And here comes the judge of Israel who will judge this world.

II. THE PROCESSION INTO JERUSALEM

First, it was not attended by kings or magistrates.

Jesus was not presented the keys to the city but the people, the common people were there to welcome him.

*Near Bethphage on cross roads - 2 miles from the city he had made arrangement for a Donkey & his colt. garments across the colt, as a makeshift saddle for Jesus, on the colt headed for the city - that is where he met the crowds -*

III. PROPHECY FULFILLED

V. 3 - We are foretold that this would be the way that our Lord would come. *Read*

The King would come into the city. And the fulfillment of the message. Zech. 9:9-11.

*V. 4*  
*V. 5*  
Rejoice greatly O daughters of Zion, shout O daughters of Jerusalem, behold thy king cometh unto thee. He is just and having salvation. Lowly and riding upon an ass and upon a colt. The foal of an ass and I will cut off the chariot Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. *!!*

This dramatic entry into the city was prophesied by Zechariah and is being fulfilled as Christ illustrates his kingship. Now the Jews understood this. Christ as king, was offering peace to the people for the very animal on which he rode was the symbol of peace. Not a symbol of war. -

Before Jesus, a Jewish ancestor, had his way (path way) covered with myrtle twigs and robes and Mordecai rode from the palace of Ahasuerus.

In Psalms 113, 118 - we find some more of this prophesy. And the hymn used by the people who welcomed him.

IV. WHAT THEY DID

V. 6

V. 6 / V. 7

V. 7 - They put garments on the beast. They always decorated the animals.  
Of the one that was to be honored.

*Sonby*

V. 8

V. 8 - They spread garments in the way. Some have suggested that they spread their garments on the hedges and the walls to beautify the calvacade. Those who would take Christ for king must lay their all under his feet.

2 Kings 9:13, Jehu was proclaimed king - there was a triumphant procession.

*Oyster Bowl Parade - Macy's Thanksgiving Parade - Rose - orange Bowl Cal - the*

Alexander, entering Babylon, had roses spread along the way before him.

A Persian king, had goblets of sugar broken before him for three miles.

Jesus coming to the city had garments spread along the way. *on stairs, Behind Triumphal*

Palm branches also. Isaiah 9:14 - signifies the head or the highest of the people as they wave the palm branches.

Lev. 23:40 - associated the palm branches with joy, rejoicing before the Lord.

Neh. 8:15, 17 - an occasion like this was associated with liberty, and joy.

So you see the spreading and waving of palm branches was a token of liberty,

And then he explained about the snow, the fog, and the cold, which they had never experienced. It did not have anything in common with them. Perhaps that is the principle with many people about joy. They do not understand it. A rich man can be miserable and a poor man can be filled with joy. It is not security, it is not pleasure, it is not power, it is not fame or status or popularity. But it is a freedom within yourself. A joy that can only come through Jesus Christ.

V. 8  
They were making way for their king. And there was joy in their hearts.

And as they made way - I thought of this story of President Garfield, who was shot and taken to a quiet home to rest in a fight for his life. A special railway was constructed to bring doctors, nurses, and relatives to his bedside. Engineers layed out the line across one farmer's front yard - but he refused. It was explained to him that it was for the President. He said, that is different, if it is for the President, you can run it right through my house. Make way for Christ. Let him enter your heart and many object to Christ having a right of way.

V. 9  
What they said - V. 9 - "Hosanna" - this was the cry. It means save us. The people needed salvation - and they cried for salvation.

*"God Bless King David's Son!"  
 "God's man is here!" "Bless the Lord"*

Who was shouting. Some of those that had been healed, no doubt the ten lepers were there. The woman at the well. Other people who had been blessed and helped were there.

Psalms 113-118 - there are verses that are sung at the Jewish feast of tabernacles. And I think this was used on Palm Sunday. "Give thou the triumph, o Jehovah, to the son of David. Blessed be the kingdom of our father, David. Now to be restored in the name of Jehovah. Blessed be he that cometh, the king of Israel in the name

of Jehovah. Our peace and salvation are from God above. Praise be he in the highest Heavens for sending them by him, the son of David. From the highest Heavens, send thou now salvation."

*Now a days one has to be very careful with political jokes because many times political is get twisted!*

It looked as if Christ had been made king way in the distant past. And of course with Zechariah's prophesy, Christ was now living out and coming on this Sunday - the day that we call Palm Sunday.

V. 10-11, the citizens wondered. Here is the holy one that is unknown in the Holy City. *Jesus announced this is your Hour of Decision!*  
*Billy Graham Saw This Today - This is your Hour!*

There is ignorance where the light shines, even of the Gospel. In this country of ours where the Gospel has been preached, we find there is a great deal of ignorance as to the knowledge about Jesus Christ.

Jerusalem had been stirred before, when the wise men walked through the streets and inquired, where is he that is born king of the Jews.

V. 11 - Christ did not go up to the court house or to the palace - but he went into the temple. For his kingdom was to be of a spiritual nature.

What did Jesus see.

V. 12 - Mark 11:11 - The Bible says he looked around upon all things everywhere and all around in everything.

V. 13 - Thoroughness, his gaze was not just as a wide-eyed child, nor as an inspector. But it was very thorough.



Contemplation of what is already known. Jesus already knew what was going on in the city of Jerusalem. He knows what is going on in the city of Chesapeake and your city, wherever you live. He knows what goes on.

V. 12 - 13

Time Spring House cleaning

First he saw a den of robbers. As he looked at the temple - the house of prayer.

It was to be, and it was not being defended or used as a particular place of worship.

Preacher asked group boys "Was there a Devil?" - One boy answered "Now, it's like Santa Claus - it's my Daddy!"  
A grandfather - arthritic told his grandson when he said his prayers to ask God to send warm weather, as he felt better when it was hot & surprised when little fellow closed prayers "Lord, please make it hot for grandpa!"

The Gentile court was filled with traffic. It was a short cut from one side of town to the other side. And there was a great deal of selling and buying. And worship was interfered with. People were trading merchandise and handling vessels.

Right there in the place of prayer. During my travels I observed a number of buildings, now used for other purposes. Bldgs once dedicated to God, are now used for other purposes. The name of God - One - Antique shop - art school - full of Holy Barmine Theatre - night club - bank of St. Mary the Abby Restaurant looks like ch and in a ch. - it's a respect & trust recently.

Second, he saw destructive forces at work. There were the rulers. And there were the priests and the Pharisees. Now he had predicted not one stone would be left. And Titus came and destroyed that temple. Now Isaiah saw this that the whole city - the centers in Zion are afraid. Trembling had ceased the godless ones.

He saw divine victory. On the night of the passover he must have stood at the temple gate. Now the golden vine, a symbol of the Hebrew people. For it must have been that Christ said, I am the true vine. And standing here, he saw divine victory.

He saw a city without a temple. And as he looked, he could visualize that this temple would not be here. You remember the Samaritan women who talked with Jesus. She said our fathers worship in thus and so in this mountain. And Jesus pointed out that the hour was going to come when men would not worship in that temple or a

sacred spot - but it would be in spirit and in truth.

John, saw a city with no temple - a holy city.

What did Jesus think when he came into the city.

He saw a house of prayer turned into a den of robbers. He thought, tomorrow, I'll return and I'll clear out this temple. I'll end this money changing business.

He thought this house must once again become a house of prayer.

Today, perhaps, some of the best things that some religious institutions could do would be to close up their buildings and abandon their traffic because it is nothing more than a club, or a place of amusement. They have really abandoned Christ, for some sort of religion.

What did Jesus do when he came to the city.

Back West Rd - Newark  
L.O. Conway  
Thompson  
Hicks  
not Fred. Baker  
- stay Dyer  
1st Church  
class

First, he opposed the Pharisees. The whole city was moved. And they said, who is this. And they said this is the son of David. This is Jesus, the man from Galilee. The man from Nazareth.

A few days, this same crowd would cry out - crucify him. And many in Chesapeake, even tonight would say, away with him. Let's crucify him.

Christ to walk the road to Herod's palace - to be mocked. How easy it is out of church to laugh and to approve of sinful acts. Can anyone leave this Palm Sunday to let Christ carry the whole load of his cross. Or will we give of ourselves to help him carry the load. That is it - to give of ourselves. Christ wants you - all you have and are to help carry the cross of righteousness to a sinful world. Will you honor your king or will you reject. And will you crucify him.

*Time for Spring Cleaning*

What would happen if Jesus should come to your city.

How would he look at the things in this city - in your city.

*Time for Ministry -*

First, he would measure things by divine standards. Now if he should come, he would not measure by human conscience or conveniences. Like Samuel, the Lord looks on the heart - not on the outward appearance.

V. 14  
V. 15

*The Blind, Crippled, Hunchbacked, Poor (ch. not without poor folks) little children, Place of Redemption! Contrast Ben!*

*Time for Praise -*

I wonder how he would measure this old town that has gambling, drinking and immorality, profanity, and people who live for the Devil. Just how would he measure this town. He would measure it by divine standards. It would be measured by his standards. You think about the Ten Commandments - and you think about the standards of God.

Second, Jesus would agree with God on his destructive judgement. If he should come to this city, just as he entered Jerusalem and he cut the temple down and the money changers, and the evil workers. And if he should come to this city there

would be some people assigned to Hell.

Yes, if Jesus comes to this town, he is going to measure by divine standards. And he is going to use divine judgement to destroy that which is evil.

And third, if he should come, as he has - he would provide a way of escape.

There is mercy, come unto me. I died on a cross for you. Your sins can be forgiven. And make no mistake about it, it is your sins. Not somebody else's.

As a little Quaker girl who had a dream. And in her dream she visualized that she stood by a golden arrow in the earth. And there was an angel measuring people. She stood by this measurement - they would either deminish or grow. And an old seamstress stood up by the arrow. And she began to grow. And soon a Sunday School Teacher stood by the golden arrow and the teacher began to deminish. And as the little Quaker girl watched it - soon it was her turn to stand by the golden arrow in the earth and be measured. And so she stood, and to her terror - she began to cry out. Oh recording angel, don't write that down. "I can do better than that." I wonder if Jesus would come tonight - couldn't you do better on this Palm Sunday. Do you really want him to triumph in your life.

On this day he came as the king and was proclaimed so.

On the first day of the week, he came riding into the city as king. As Christ the Saviour, he was raised on the first day of the week. And on the first day of the week, he made his appearances after the resurrection. And on the first day of the week he poured out his Holy Spirit on the church.

He is in our city today. He is before us all.

Like Queen Victoria who listened to the chaplain preach of the second coming of Jesus. She shook in tears afterwards talking to him. Oh sir, you spoke of the rightful king coming. "I could wish that I could be here when he comes. That I might place this crown at his blessed feet."

You have a life. Place it at the feet of Jesus today. This is the opportunity for you to claim him as the king. Kneel at his feet in glad and grateful submission. This is the issue presented by this triumphant entry. The king comes to his city Jerusalem. The king was here in our city. What reception will you give him this hour.

We like Think of crowd Palm Branch, - singing Hosanna!  
We Are involved - Make our decision To Pilate's Question

What → Will ye do With Jesus?

G. A. Studdert-Kennedy, the poet chaplain of World War I, a minister, really immortalized himself as a writer. He wrote a little piece called "Indifference" — and that's what it is. It's indifference when we have nothing to give Him:

"When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a tree, They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary; They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep, For those were crude and cruel days, the human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by, They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die; For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain, They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do," And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through; The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see, And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary."

around that simple message he is dying to make live in me just now? God loves me God loves you. That's the word. (8)

Beats - thought about Kolt camp (Lovers) -

It is still hard to take it in, isn't it? So, some just taste of it and never really commit to it. In a "Doonesbury" cartoon picture, a mom and dad are sitting on the sofa having a heart-to-heart talk with their son, Alex. Dad begins the conversation by saying, "Alex, honey, Mom and I have been talking, and we've decided it's time to start attending church as a family." "Church?" responds a stunned Alex, "Church is boring." "Well, we thought you might say that," says Dad. "Didn't you think church was boring when you were a kid?" asks Alex. "Well, sure, I hated going," admits Dad. "But church was good for me, so my parents made me stick it out. You may end up hating church, too, but you have to come by that feeling honestly. You have to put in the pew time, like Mom and I did." "Oh." After a long pause, Alex asks, "What if I like it?" Caught off guard, Dad replies, "Like it? What do you mean?" To which Mom says, "We'll cross that bridge when we get there, honey." "What if I like it?" What if I really hear about Jesus in church? What if I really hear Jesus in church? (9)

We don't want him to get too close to us.

A certain father had a little daughter who kept a daily notebook. On one page she drew a picture of her father and carefully printed his name and address. When asked why, she explained. She had been watching a movie about amnesia. She said, "If I ever forget who I am I want everybody to know who I belong to."

If this week passes with all of these services and celebrations, and you end up not knowing who it is you belong to, then a great opportunity has been missed, and he died in vain. ■

Day of Peace - Donkey -

Wm. Bell - American 5th Army  
Crossed the Po River in Italy.  
Pursuit Refracting Germany Army - Moore  
4 times during night - Refracting grove blind  
This beautiful valley, full in fight - Spain  
Sunday, set Portable organ - assault  
men that Isa 26:3 "Thou wilt keep  
him in perfect peace whose mind is  
stayed on thee" That was it - What need  
it was, for perfect Peace day Italy W.W.I

A Book W.W.I. Title 42nd Rain  
Bow Infantry Division - Tills 114  
days combat, advancing 450 miles  
from France to Austria, Capture  
of Munich other cities, 51,000  
prisoners - collected thousands  
of German soldiers fled to Austria

When Peace Declared there  
are pictures of soldiers gathered  
in churches + out on the  
field in Holy worship, singing  
Thanks to God war was  
over, also, Remembering those  
who had died in their millions  
and who had given all for  
peace - They were in prayer!

Then Brethren, said The  
Foundation for Peace -

Palm Sunday is now  
your opportunity to find Peace  
with God -