

Church of God Sunday School

JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-19; Luke 19:29-48; John 12:12-19

Zechariah, an Old Testament prophet, prophesied that one day Jesus would enter the city of Jerusalem riding on an ass, and He would be surrounded by multitudes of people rejoicing in His greatness. Zechariah 9:9 says, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter 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." (An ass is also called a donkey.)

That Scripture was about to come to pass. Jesus was traveling towards Jerusalem. At the Mount of Olives, Jesus stopped. He sent two of the disciples into the village, telling them that they would find a colt (young donkey) that had never been ridden. This colt would be tied up. Jesus told the disciples to untie the colt and bring it to Him. If any one asked why they were doing this, they were to say, "Because the Lord hath need of him."

"And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them." When the owners came and asked why they were untying their colt, the disciples said the Lord needed him, and the owners let them take it. The disciples led the colt to where Jesus was waiting, at the Mount of Olives.

The disciples placed some of their clothing on the colt, and "they set Jesus thereon." As Jesus rode to Jerusalem, a large crowd of people placed their clothing on the road in front of Jesus, showing that they were receiving Him as a king. (Read 2 Kings 9:13.) Other people cut down tree branches and laid these in the road.

Jesus was surrounded by a large multitude of people who were waving palm branches and crying out, "Hosanna to the son of David; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the high-

est." (Hosanna means "save now." The people believed Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom and save them from the rule of the Romans. They did not understand He had come to save them from their sins.)

Some Pharisees among the crowd told Jesus to rebuke those disciples who were giving Him praise. Jesus said, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

Yet, in the middle of all the rejoicing, Jesus began to weep over the city of Jerusalem. Why did He cry? It was because He knew that even though they were rejoicing over Him then (crying out "Hosanna"), they would soon be rejecting Him (crying out "Crucify him"). They would reject Jesus as the Son of God, and their day of judgment was coming soon. Terrible destruction would come to the people of Jerusalem, and Jesus wept because of it.

The people called Jesus a king, but they wanted another kind of king. They wanted one who would reign

from a throne in a palace, not a king who would reign in their hearts. They wanted a king to break Rome's rule over them, but Jesus had come to bring peace in people's hearts. (In Bible times when a king went to war, he rode a horse, but when he came in peace, he rode an ass.)

After Jesus entered the city, He went to the temple (place of worship) and looked around at all that was going on there. In the outer court of the temple, He saw that some of the money changers were charging an extremely high rate to exchange coins for the temple tax (as much as half of one day's wages). Other people were selling sacrificial animals for sometimes as much as 20 times what they could be bought for somewhere else. Not only had God's house (the temple) become a place of business, but it had also become a place to



take advantage of the poor people who had come to worship and offer a sacrifice to God.

The dedication of the temple for only worship had been forgotten. The temple was set apart to be a holy place for the worship of God. Jesus was very angry at what He saw taking place in the house of God! Jesus began to cast out all who were selling in the temple and also the ones who bought from them. He overthrew the tables of the money changers. He upset all the seats of the ones who sold doves. Jesus also would not allow anyone to carry any vessel through the temple.

He spoke sternly to those who were guilty of doing those things: "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Surpris-

ingly, nobody did anything to Jesus for throwing people out of the temple, and after that, Jesus taught daily in the temple.

Although the chief priests and the scribes wanted to destroy Jesus, they could not carry out their desire at that time, for all of the people wanted to hear what Jesus had to say.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

*" . . . thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon . . . a colt."*

—Zechariah 9:9  
~~~~~

Fill in the Blanks



Jesus sent _____ disciples.



Jesus said, "Go into the _____."



Jesus said, "You will find a _____."



"The _____ hath need of him."