

Intro: One of the well-known incidents in the life of Jesus has come to be known as Palm Sunday, yet is widely misunderstood. Why?

-By many Jesus' entry is regarded as a last attempt by Jesus to gain a following. But Jesus abandons his plan and goes to Calvary instead.

-The King comes. The King is received and rejected. Where is the Gospel of joy and peace?

### I. THE PROPHECY OF HIS COMING.

#### A. The call to great joy in his coming.

1. "Rejoice greatly...shout": this is not mere repetition but inward joy that comes to expression.
2. The Lord causes the hearts of his people to overflow with heavenly gladness.
3. "Daughters of Zion...Jerusalem": the two expressions are synonymous. Denoted is the church at that day:
4. From a human standpoint, Zion's plight is hopeless. The Lord comes to rescue. He brings Zion's King! Our helplessness!

#### B. The character of Zion's King: "**he is just**". Just rulers had brought blessings to Israel, unjust rulers brought a curse!

1. Zion's king will be just in his rule. He judges not after the sight of his eyes, but in righteousness cares for the poor (Isa.9:13)
2. He judges rightly because he is just and righteous in himself.
3. In the law of God is his whole delight. He meditates on it day and night. He is without one moral flaw.
4. Even the most just of Israel's kings (David and Hezekiah) were but weak and sinful men bringing grief to Jerusalem.

#### C. The character of Zion's King: "**having salvation**".

1. The king is saved of God: even when the burden of wrath lay on him, God strengthened him and raised him to life & glory.
2. The king saves himself. "I lay down my life, that I might take it up again (John 10:17)."
3. He is the Savior, having salvation for Zion. O how mighty he is to save her out of her helplessness.

#### D. Zion's king is "**lowly**".

1. The idea of the word is to be afflicted, and therefore to be bowed down.
2. He is afflicted by men for their works are evil and his works are righteous.
3. He is afflicted by God (Isa. 53) as he stands as our substitute, obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
4. He endures this affliction because he loves his Father, seeks his kingdom, knowing that he will satisfy God's righteousness.

#### E. Zion's King is meek: "**riding upon an ass and upon a colt, the foal of an ass**".

1. This characteristic is hardly to be expected of kings. Alexander and those like him come with pageantry and pride.
2. Some trust in chariots and some in their horses, for their kingdoms are of this earth.
3. Zion's king comes riding on a donkey. He came not to be served but to serve, to give his life as a ransom (Mark 10: 45).
4. His kingdom is heavenly and spiritual, established by pouring out his soul in death.
5. Therefore he has no need for chariots and horses, for they are a vain thing to trust in (Ps. 33:17, 76:6)

### II. THE PROPHECY FULFILLED.

#### A. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey.

1. He does this **to fulfill the Scriptures**. We might think of Jesus as God not bound to anything, but he is the obedient son!
2. Always he considered himself bound to the Scriptures, because he delights to do God's will
3. He comes to Jerusalem as **the long awaited promised King**. He is just, having salvation, afflicted for them, meek.
4. That kingdom promised has been established, realized by Jesus going to the cross to procure their salvation & deliverance
5. Jesus comes to Jerusalem on this Sunday as **their Passover lamb**: the day when Israelites selected their lambs.
6. Jesus comes to the temple in Jerusalem as the God-ordained and provided lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

#### B. The rejoicing of the crowd.

1. Notice that it is Jesus who creates the reaction of the crowd through his raising of Lazarus whom the crowds wish to see.
2. Now Jesus creates excitement through his confiscation of the donkey. He claims the right of kings.
3. The disciples and the crowd lay down their coats and wave their palm branches, quoting the Scriptures: "Hosanna..."

#### C. The passion of the Savior.

1. Palm Sunday is the first day of what has been called Passion week. How great was his passion.
2. The disciples and the crowd quote the Scriptures, but remain ignorant of their fulfillment (John 12:16).
3. The spontaneous enthusiasm of the crowd quickly goes to the opposite extreme and shout: "Away with this man..."

### III. THE GOSPEL OF THE BLESSEDNESS OF HIS REIGN.

#### A. The gospel was preached then to the crowd and still is preached today.

-a royal entry, not the kind of kingdom the Jews would give, but rather the kingdom he receives from his Father.

#### B. Jesus came into Jerusalem to save and deliver his people from their sins as their King and lamb.

-On a lowly donkey, Jesus enters his kingdom to lay down his life for those who are his.

#### C. Jesus will bring in his kingdom of joy and everlasting peace.

-Jesus by his death on the cross defeated all of the church's enemies: the world with Satan as prince, sin, death, and hell.