

## “King of kings”

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-48; John 12:12-26

**Introduction:** The Gospel writers provide us with a four-dimensional picture of what we call Palm Sunday. There are four points of view: the disciples, the crowd; the religious leaders and Jesus.

Disciples - What did the Disciples sense as Jesus commanded this donkey and rode into Jerusalem? Matthew 20:17-19; John 10:14-18; 14:25-30; 16:17-20. In spite of all of this the disciples were blinded (Luke 9:51-62).

**Concept:** Being close to Jesus, interacting daily with Jesus, listening and watching Jesus did not open the eyes of these disciples to the mission of Jesus.

Crowd - This story is really about two crowds, one that came from Jerusalem and the other, much smaller, that came with Jesus down the Mount of Olives from Bethany. (Psalm 118:25-26; Zechariah 9:9-10) What they did not know was that Jesus would make two appearances.

**Precept:** Jesus first came to establish his kingdom in the hearts of people then he would return and establish that kingdom over all the earth. Which is more difficult, which costs God the most?

Religious Leaders - The Sanhedrin took form during that period of time we call 'Second Temple Judaism' or the 'Four Hundred Silent Years' between the Biblical Testaments.

**Precept:** The symbols of our faith are not our faith. We must hold them loosely and see them for what they are, symbols, but not the real thing.

Jesus - Does Jesus know what is actually happening in this story? Yes! (2 Samuel 7:6-16; Hebrews 9:11-12).

**Concept:** As Jesus was presented before God, sheep were being prepared before the Jews. (Matthew 1:21; Acts 2:22-24)

**Conclusion:** At this event Jesus had not yet died and everyone around this event is clueless that Jesus would surrender to the cross. They were ill-informed and at the same time passionate about their feelings. We are not caught in that web; we are well informed but are we passionate about this event and what this event led to; the cross. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) What am I passionate about and does it matter for eternity?

At Lazarus' tomb Jesus shed tears of grief at the death of his friend. In Luke's story Jesus weeps publicly, openly, visually while the crowd cheered him; he was broken hearted at their lack of understanding, their spiritual naiveté and blindness. Which grief was greater? Death is inevitable but spiritual blindness is not.

The disciples would eventually learn that the journey that Jesus took to the cross would be a path that they would have to take after he returned to heaven. The same crowd that cheered Jesus on Monday called for his crucifixion on Friday. Jesus' first journey to earth was one of humiliation; suffering; rejection and pain. This was the journey of love and Jesus' followers are called to walk this journey. (Hebrews 12:1-2)