



**SPRINGCREEK  
CHURCH**

2660 Belt Line Road  
Garland, TX 75044  
972.494.5683 (LOVE)  
springcreekchurch.org

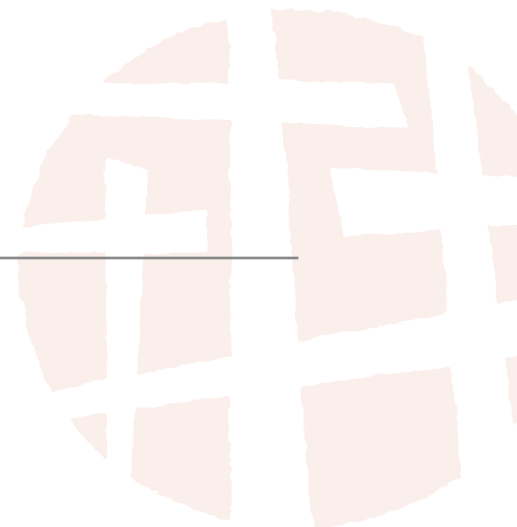
## **THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

Palm Sunday

Senior Pastor Keith Stewart

April 13, 2025

It's a story told by all four gospel writers and marks the beginning of the Passion Week of Christ. Just about the time you think you really understand it, it surprises you with layers of rich meaning that you never noticed before. At the heart of this story is a choice and not just any choice - THE CHOICE - are we committed to Jesus for Who He is or for Who we want Him to be? Don't miss this message!



## **1. THE HOUR HAD FINALLY COME**

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." John 12.23*

❑ Passover and Politics

❑ The Significance of the Donkey

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

*Zechariah 9.9*

*Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.*

*Mark 11.1b-2*

*After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men*

*with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Genesis 22.1-3 (ESV)*

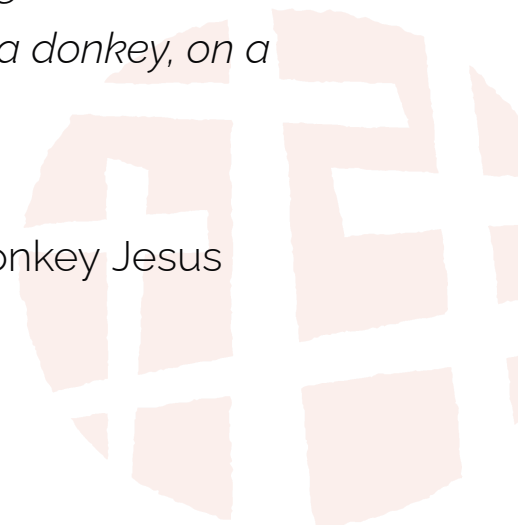
- Donkeys can carry heavy burdens
- Donkeys are faithful even when frightened
- Donkeys are a sign of royalty

*So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" 1 Kings 1.38-39 (ESV)*

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9.9 (ESV)*

People today want Air Force One Jesus, not donkey Jesus

❑ The Enthusiastic Reception



## 1. Spread Palm Branches - A National Symbol of Liberation

"Avenge the wrong done to your people. Pay back the Gentiles in full." - Mattathias

*...carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also fronds of palm, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place.*

2 Maccabees 10.7

## 2. Spread their Cloaks - a Reception Fit for a King

*They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"* 2 Kings 9.13

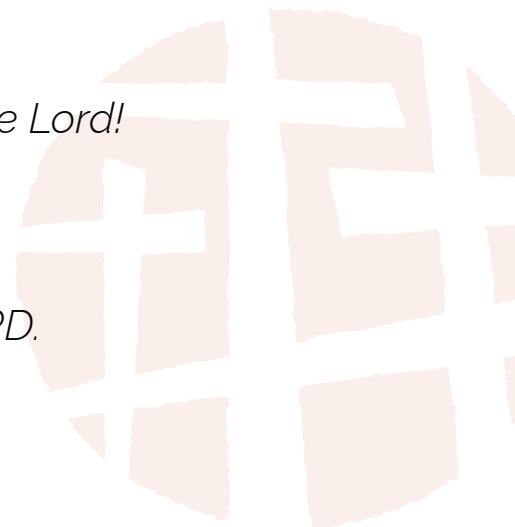
Hosanna is made up of two Hebrew words: *hōša* ' which means "help us, save us, deliver us," and *nā:* which means "we pray" or "now, please"

*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!*

Luke 19.38

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.*

Psalm 118.26



We want Jesus to be who we want Him to be instead of who He is.

- Political Jesus
- Magic 8-ball Jesus
- Mr. Rogers Jesus
- Santa Jesus
- Self-Help Jesus

## **2. THE TALE OF TWO TRIUMPHAL ENTRIES**

A Massive Display of Force

Centurions and Legionnaires

Chariots

## **3. WHEN GOD DOESN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS**

We imagine our problems to be something else

We only see what we want to see not what's really happening



## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. It turns out that donkeys are more important than many of us ever realized. What are the things about donkeys that stood out most to you today? How do they enhance your understanding of Christ and His mission? What sort of statement did it make for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey at Passover? Do you think people in his day understood the significance of this?
2. Obviously at Passover, the fervor of the people reaches its highest levels. Remembering the significance of the deliverance of their people from Egypt and now being under the bootheel of another superpower made them yearn for God to do it again. But neither the people nor even Jesus' disciples understood the sort of deliverance Christ intended to bring. Why do you think they were so blind as to what Christ intended to do even though He taught it and explicitly said it many times? If you lived in those days, do you think you would have seen things differently or the same as everybody else? Why or why not?
3. Pastor Keith said, "We want Jesus to be who we want Him to be instead of who He is." He then gave examples of the many ways we distort who Jesus is; Political Jesus, Magic 8-ball Jesus, Mr. Rogers Jesus, Santa Jesus and even Self-Help Jesus. Have you ever witnessed this yourself?

Is this something you did at some point in your faith journey? How did that affect you? How did you come to a true, better and more Biblical understanding of Christ?

4. There were two likely triumphal entries into Jerusalem that day taking place on opposite sides of the city. One involved Pontius Pilate accompanied by a massive display of force. The other involved Jesus, a donkey and a rag-tag group of followers. Why does the world worship power and military might even to this day? Which parade would you personally fit into best? What does Jesus' entrance into the city that day say about the nature of His kingdom?
  
5. We all must make a choice. In a sense, even today, we are still waving our palm branches. This National Jewish symbol for liberation can either be waved in the political sense, i.e. believing that our deliverance rises and falls based on who possesses power in Washington DC. Or it can be waved in a more profound spiritual sense believing what's fundamentally wrong with the world can't be fixed by legislation, executive order or any other sort of political action. Instead, each and every heart needs to experience forgiveness, liberation from the bonds of selfishness and be set free to love God and others as intended. In which sphere do you wave your palm branch most? Based on what you read, what occupies your time and energy and conversations, or how you post on social media, what would others say is the sphere where you wave your palm branch most?

