



**SPRINGCREEK
CHURCH**

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SEVEN DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

The Donkey, The Cross, And The Crowd

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On Palm Sunday, the crowds shouted "Hosanna," waved palm branches, and welcomed Jesus as King. But they wanted a conqueror with a hammer—not a Savior riding a donkey. What they celebrated on Sunday, they rejected by Friday because Jesus refused to meet their expectations. He did not come to overthrow Rome; He came to overthrow sin. The question remains for us: will we follow the King we want—or the Lamb who came to save?

1. THE DONKEY: Seeing circumstances through the lens of Scripture

- 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

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)

❑ The Trek

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19.37-38

The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it. Ezekiel 11.23

Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. Ezekiel 43.1-2

"Within his own time and culture, his riding on donkeys over the Mount of Olives, across Kidron, and up to the temple mount spoke more powerfully than words could have done of a royal claim." - N.T. Wright

❑ Donkeys in Scripture are associated with 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)

2. THE CROWD: We see what we want to see

"At such a time Jerusalem and the villages round about were crowded. On one occasion a census was taken of the lambs slain at the Passover Feast. The number was given as 256,000. There had to be a minimum of ten people per lamb; and if



that estimate is correct it means that there must have been as many as 2,700,000 people at that Passover Feast."

- William Barclay, Commentary on John

❑ They 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.

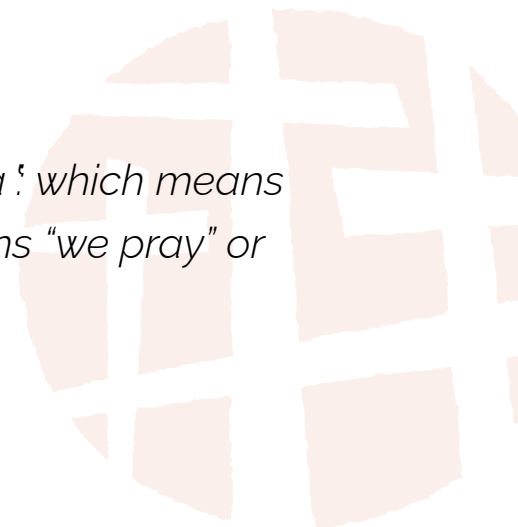
2 Maccabees 10.7

❑ They 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

❑ What They Say

Hosanna is made up of two Hebrew words: hōša ˀ which means "help us, save us, deliver us," and nā: which means "we pray" or "now, please" – gave it urgency.



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

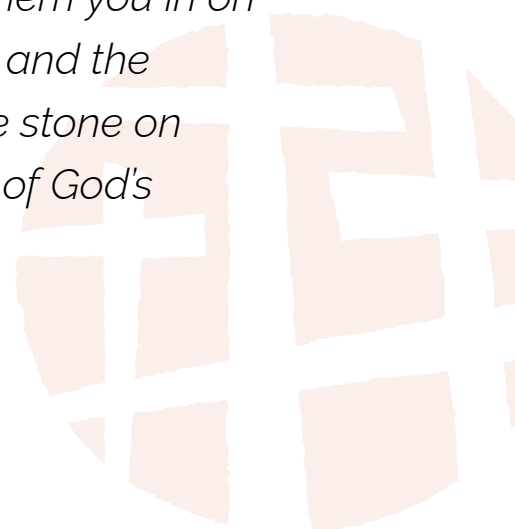
We want Jesus to be who we want Him to be instead of who He is.

❑ When God doesn't meet your expectations

"Here was the one who was to come. But they looked for the Messiah of their own dreams and their own wishful thinking; they did not look for the Messiah whom God had sent."

- William Barclay, Commentary on John, p. 118

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you. Luke 19.41-44



3. THE CROSS: We see what's happening not what's really happening

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Observation: Seeing What the Text Reveals

Why do you think all four Gospel writers included the Triumphal Entry? What does that tell us about its importance? What different biblical connections to the donkey did you notice (Zechariah, Abraham and Isaac, Solomon)? What do those layers communicate about Jesus?

What political expectations were present in Jerusalem during Passover? How did palm branches, cloaks, and the word "Hosanna" reflect those expectations?

2. Interpretation: Understanding the Meaning

What message was Jesus intentionally sending by riding a donkey instead of a war horse? How does that redefine power?

The crowd welcomed Jesus as King but rejected Him as Savior. What is the difference between enthusiasm and genuine faith?



Why do you think Jesus wept over Jerusalem while the crowd was celebrating? What does that reveal about His heart?

3. Personal Reflection: Examining the Heart

In what ways do people today (including Christians) project their own expectations onto Jesus?

Where are you most tempted to want "Air Force One Jesus" instead of "Donkey Jesus"?

The crowd wanted deliverance from Rome; Jesus came to deal with sin. What problems in your life feel urgent but may not be the root issue?

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Lamb Selection Day. If He stood before you today asking for your allegiance, what would it mean practically to choose the Lamb instead of the hammer?



