



Journey to the Cross Part 6: What Did You Expect?

March 28 2021

Jesus' Triumphant Entry

12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!"

14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 15 "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt."

16 His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

17 Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. 18 That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. 19 Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!" John 12:12-19 NLT

40 On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees—palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the Lord your God for seven days. Leviticus 23:40 NLT

Notes:

Three Decisions

Decision 1: Who is going to be your Lord?

Decision 2: Are you actually following Christ?

3 Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ...6 "Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. Exodus 12:3 and 6 NLT

Decision 3: Is your name written on the Lamb?

Expectations

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 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. 43 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. 44 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 19:41-43

Many people have an expectation that God is going to come and airlift them out of their situation or difficulty or hardship. And when that doesn't happen they get very discouraged and disillusioned with God. But instead of airlifting us out of our situation, God does something different. Something different that is actually better. God parachutes Jesus down to join us in our muck and the chaos. He is with us in our present situation--no matter how terrible it may be. (Adapted from Pete Greig, *God on Mute*)

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

Psalms 23:3-4 NIV