

**Here Comes My King**  
**Mark 11:1-10**

When I was a teen, I use to watch the show called “Laugh-In” every week. One of the skits on that show was a courtroom spoof with Sammy Davis Jr. posing as a courtroom judge, but he would render the most bizarre judgments. The skit would open with the arrival of the judge and a chant that went something like this ... *“Here come the judge, Here come the judge, order in the courtroom, here come the judge.”* It was an announcement, a proclamation of the coming of the judge, the one who deserved respect and honor, the one who would render the verdict against the offense of the people. In this comedy skit, the judge turned out not to be so wise or deserving of our respect or honor. In our judicial system there is still respect shown to the presiding judge. Everyone is asked to rise to honor the judge as he/she enters the courtroom as a sign of respect.

About 2000 years ago in the distant land of Israel a very special event took place in the city of Jerusalem. You see, every year Jewish people gathered from all over the land, far and near, to spend Passover in the Holy City, Jerusalem. It was a sacred event and a time for rejoicing and the reunion of many families and relatives who only got to see each other on feasts like this. Passover was the greatest of feasts and held so much meaning and promise for the People of God. The celebration of the Passover commemorated the redemption of the Hebrews from the slavery of Egypt. This was the salvation story of the Jewish people, and it was recollected in detail every year at this time. The miraculous deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt was the national epic of this race. God stepped through time and space to rescue His people from the oppression and slavery they were in bondage to at that time. We heard last week about the blood that was applied to the doorway of the Hebrew people as a sign to the death angel to Pass Over those homes and not kill the first born of that household. The Egyptians were not so blessed, and with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, the God of the Hebrews swiftly brought His people out from there to the land of His promise.

Along with this great deliverance came the promises of many prophets stating that the Anointed One would come soon to bring about an even greater deliverance, a permanent redemption that would last for all of eternity. This special King would come to his people and they would not recognize Him. He would appear to them in a form they would least expect. Rather than a conquering King, he would come as a suffering servant. All the signs were there to recognize Him, but most did not. The Roman government was oppressive, almost like that of Egypt in the ancient days. These people needed a deliverer who would bring them out of this political quagmire. As usual, God is more interested in the eternal than the temporal, more interested in the spiritual than the worldly, and more interested in relationship than in tradition or rituals of religion. Let’s see how our King entered into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday and the impact it had on the people there.

**READ – Mark 11:1-10**

This is the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as noted in most Bibles. Our conquering King came riding in on a colt to be received by the multitudes of the people gathered there that day. He had worked all those miracles and surely He was the one who would bring deliverance to Israel from the bondage of the oppressive Roman Empire just as the Lord had done for Israel when they cried out to Him in their oppression in Egypt. Who else could have done such great things? He must be the One anointed by God to bring redemption and salvation once and for all for the people of Israel. Let’s look at this passage with some explanation of what all this meant then.

**Mark 11:1-2 - As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 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.**

It was common in this time period for messengers to be sent out in twos. If you remember, Jesus sent his disciples and later the 70 out two by two to bring the message of the Gospel to the people. Jesus asks for a "colt" to be brought back to him. A "colt" is the young foal of a number of animals, but it is believed and documented that it was the colt of a donkey that he chose. Rather than just ride in on a donkey, Jesus purposely requested the colt – the young fold – one that has never be ridden on. By doing so, He further showed His humility. Also animals that were never used before were of particular interest in religious ceremonies. A king would ride into the city on a beautiful stallion as he returned victoriously from battle. The conquering king would also be hailed by the people, his subjects, as he reentered the city awaiting his return in victory. Instead of a stallion, Jesus didn't just ride in on a donkey (a common worker animal), but he chose the colt of a donkey as prophesied.

***Zech 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

**Mark 11:3 - If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'**

Jerusalem was very lively during the Passover – people came from all over to celebrate in the Holy City. Locals were very hospitable and generous during this feast time, even with their possessions. The two disciples waltz into town and untie a colt that doesn't belong to them and start off. When questioned they reply, "Oh, don't worry! It's for the Lord's work. We'll bring it back later. No. Really! The Lord needs it." Yeah, just try that in New York – or anywhere else in modern America no matter how important a feast it is for. The people in Jerusalem had no problem lending the colt to the service of the Lord. After all, it was the Passover feast. Religious expectation was very high.

**Mark 11:4-6 - They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.**

The towns may have had a courtyard or the doorways of the houses were facing the dirt roadway in smaller villages. People would have ridden the adult animal, but no one would take a colt, which no one has ever ridden, and attempt to ride it. When the disciples retrieved this animal, they had no idea what Jesus was intending. They just obeyed and untied the colt and brought it to Jesus as He commanded.

**Mark 11:7-8 - When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.**

They spontaneously put their cloaks on the colt making a type of saddle for Jesus to sit upon. The spreading of garments on the ground represents royal homage (**2 Kings 9:13 - They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"**). Branches were also waved to honor rulers. We see evidence of this in

the ancient writings between the testaments where this is recorded. In **Ps. 118:27**, we see that branches are used as part of the worship feasts - ***The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.*** In this scene we see the arrival of someone very special. A king would be honored in this way as he made his way back to his royal city after a victorious battle. This act of putting garments and branches in the path for him to ride over is like us putting out the “red carpet” for the honored guests to arrive. Jesus was being honored as the conquering king as he made his way into the Holy City on the colt of a donkey that Sunday. He must be the One to save Israel from the Roman Empire. He is anointed of God. Just look at the miracles and signs of His favor with God. Even the wind and the sea obeyed His command to be calm in the midst of the storm. Surely He comes in great power to deliver and rescue Israel.

**Mark 11:9-10 - *Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"***

The special arrival together with the proclamation of “Hosanna” drew attention to some kind of royal recognition. We forget what it might have been like because we already know what it actually was. Hind-sight is 20-20 as they say. There were pilgrims from all over in Jerusalem and making their way into the city at this same time. Hosanna was an expression of praise to God. Psalms 113-118 are called the Hallel Psalms or Praise Psalms. They were sung and recited especially at Passover time each year. The city was exuberant with praise and anticipation. People were preparing to celebrate the Passover in their homes and villages. Passover was also a special time for the Jewish people to await the Messiah, the deliverer of Israel, the coming King who would bring salvation again to the people of God.

As the crowd gathers in intensity and Jesus makes His way on the colt, they shout “Hosanna” in praise and expectation of this King who is coming. They make the way before Him by spreading their very cloaks on the ground for Him to ride over and branches in the path of the little donkey. Jesus allowed this to take place. In the past He told people not to show who He was or tell of the miracles because it was not the right time (Kairos). Now it was different. This was the appointed time. God’s plan was now coming to a climax as Jesus entered the Holy City for the last time. This would be the last week of His human life. He was about to fulfill the magnificent plan of God to bring salvation not only to the people of Israel, but to the entire human race for all time. The heavens and the angels and even the people were to praise God and honor Jesus at this appointed time. The Pharisees rebuked Him and told Him to tell the people to be quiet.

**Luke 19:40 - *"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."***

Nothing was going to stop the throng of praise for God’s greatest salvation was about to become a reality and here entering Jerusalem was Jesus my King, the One who would be the instrument of God’s plan. God Himself entered humanity in the flesh to accomplish what no other sacrifice could accomplish. As John the Baptist said, ***“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”*** This Passover would be remembered forever, even into eternity, for the Passover Lamb of God would be sacrificed for the atonement of sin for all time. This entrance on a colt was deserving of the praise of all creation.

Here’s where it really gets cool. The people shouted “Hosanna” in response to this situation. Not only is this a word of praise to God, but it literally means, “O Save” or “Save Now.” They were shouting for Jesus to Save them, and that’s exactly what he was planning to do; it was the very reason he was born. He must have been heart broken at their crying out for salvation knowing that their shouts would soon be “Crucify – Crucify” in the courtyard at his trial. Even then he would save them.

The words of Psalm 118 were being shouted ...

**Ps 118:25-26 - *O LORD, save us; (or Save Now – NKJV - Hosanna) - O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.***

They cried out to God for salvation and for the Davidic, Messianic Kingdom to be established, and that's exactly what happened. The coming of the kingdom had great significance in the Holy City that once was the capital of that ancient Kingdom of David. Here the hope of One coming in the name of the Lord is associated with the restoration of that kingdom. All of this was built into the fervor of this moment, this appointed time in history. There's no better time than a religious feast to recap the promises of God to His people. It builds hope in those promises and faith in the God of those promises. Passover celebrated the great salvation God brought about for Israel from their Egyptian slavery. They cried out to God and He saved them. Every year the Passover was observed as commanded in anticipation that God would send His Messiah to save Israel from the slavery of sin. Maybe this year? Could it be this One coming on the colt into the Holy City? They looked and thought, "Here comes my King." As he came, they put part of themselves in his path to be a part of the entry to Jerusalem. They gave of themselves to their King.

He didn't enter the City that day having returned from a victorious battle. He entered on His way to THE battle of His life for ours from the oppression and slavery of sin and the enemy of our souls. He was not the conqueror yet, but He was about to become the ultimate conquering King. He did it all for you and for me and for all humanity that will just dare to recognize and believe. Here comes my King. Imagine a parade coming down Main St. Patchogue and in the middle of the roadway is Jesus on a donkey colt. People from both sides of the street are packed in and each has a choice. Will they recognize who he really is? Will they walk away the same as when they came? Will they just watch the parade and Jesus pass by and think, "That was nice?" Will they actively be a part of the event and place a part of themselves in His path? What would you do? What would you put down for Him? He put it all down for you and purchased you back to a relationship with God in His righteousness. He gave his very life and shed his precious blood to atone for every one of your sins and mine. I didn't deserve it and either do you – that's grace. I just have to acknowledge it and receive it by faith. It is the greatest gift known to the human race, but I had to choose and so to you. Will you say, "Here comes a king?" or "Here comes My King." That makes all the difference.

## **Story – THE ROOM**

**Rev 19:11-16 -**

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:*

## **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Here comes my King – Jesus the Christ – the son of the living God. Is he your King and Savior?