

The Life of Christ – Part 7

I'm glad you could join me today for It's a Good Life. In our last study, study number six of the life of Christ, we looked at the fact that people of Christ's day when He walked this Earth refused Him, refused to receive Him as Prophet, as King, as Savior, and so forth, and we see that happening even today, the rejection of Christ. I made mention also of the fact that He went into Jerusalem and He came in, that the multitudes went before Him, and we want to read that today. I want to look at that a little closer today and I would call this study number seven on the life of Christ, the happening, or the royal entry of Christ.

In Matthew 21:9, it says, *And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*

In Psalm 118:25-26, it says, ²⁵*Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. ²⁶Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.* And, once again, this is the same thing that the people were actually praying as He went in, what we call the triumphal entry in Matthew 21:9.

In Luke 19:37-38, it says, ³⁷*And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; ³⁸Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

And I would have to compare once again Psalm 118:25-26.

In John 8:33-34, it says this: ³³*They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.***

In other words, we're seeing here in John Chapter 8 the rejection once again of the Savior as God. The realization of the prophecy of the coming Messiah was fulfilled. Zachariah's prophecy speaks of the coming of Israel's Messiah King in Zechariah 9:9, it says, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.* Remember now, they were rejoicing as He came into Jerusalem. It says, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

And the prophet Daniel also prophesied of the coming of the Messiah in Daniel 9:25: *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

This was speaking, of course, of Nehemiah as we read in Chapter 2. It talks about the rebuilding of the wall and how that the commandment went from the king to rebuild the wall. And if you'll follow this timeline you'll see that it was exactly 483 years until Messiah would be cut off or until He came into Jerusalem, riding upon that donkey.

Well, people rejected Christ and we see the realization of prophecy was fulfilled. The

prophecy was given in the Old Testament and these people should not have missed Jesus.

Look at the detailed preparation with me now. The Lord gave explicit instructions to two disciples before you went into the city. In Matthew 21:1-3, it says: *¹And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, ²Saying unto them, **Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. ³And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.***

Whoever owned these animals, they understood that the prophecy was being fulfilled at that time. The Bible doesn't tell us who these people were who had these donkeys and these animals, but it tells us that, when they heard the words of these men who went to get these animals, the person who was in charge of the animals knew exactly what was happening. The instructions the Lord gave the disciples was a fulfillment of prophecy, Matthew 21:4-5 and Zechariah 9:9.

It says in Matthew 21:4-5, *⁴All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.*

Zechariah 9:9 says, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

This is prophecy. This is something that was coming to pass as He came into Jerusalem and as the preparation was being made.

In Matthew Chapter 21, we read about a special day when Christ the King officially came to Jerusalem, and before Christ entered the city, He knew what the result would be and He wept. In Luke 19:41, it says, *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.* He knew that the people gave mouth service without the heart. They did not have their hearts right with God. They did not give Him full acknowledgment as the Messiah as He came into that city. Christ knew He would be rejected at that time as the Jewish King and what that rejection would mean to the Jewish people in the future.

In Luke 19:42-44, it says, *⁴²Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. ⁴³For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, ⁴⁴And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.***

These people rejected Jesus at the time He came. They would not receive Him so Jesus said that was sad and He cried for these people.

Notice the public presentation. The Lord enters Jerusalem. Jesus entered Jerusalem boldly. He entered noisily and defiantly according to Matthew 21:8-9. It talks about that great multitude as He came in and they cried, "Hosanna in the highest."

And did you stop to think of this, that Jesus actually entered Jerusalem as a wanted fugitive. In John 11:56-57, it says, *⁵⁶Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? ⁵⁷Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees*

had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

Jesus was coming in fulfillment of prophecy, and He didn't come in trying to hide. He came in making a lot of noise and the people made a lot of noise. Jesus came in although He was a wanted fugitive as we would think of it today. He was wanted by the law of that time, by the Jewish religious leaders, but yet He was not afraid to enter in and let people know that He was coming in and that He was there.

The time had come for the people to acknowledge the King and that's the reason He came the way He did. You can read later on Luke 19:37-40 that talks about this. And the religious leaders were jealous and told the Lord to silence His disciples. Luke 19:39 says, *And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.*

And the Lord's answer to them is found in Luke 19:40 and the actions that took place in Luke 19:45 and 47, and this caused the religious hypocrites to hate Him even more. Luke 19:40 says, *And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

This made the Pharisees and all those religious leaders even more angry because they knew that Jesus was saying, "I am God. I am very God of God. I am the only God. I am the one who can save men, women, boys, and girls from the devil's Hell," and this made these people very angry, the religious leaders.

Notice the stirring acclamation, the multitude's reaction to the entrance of the King. In Matthew 21:8, it says, *And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down*

branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

It was customary for people in the East to welcome a king, a conqueror, or deliverer in the way Christ was welcomed. They actually were doing what they were supposed to do, and in II Kings 9:13, it says, *Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.*

So they were actually going through the motions of welcoming King Jesus into that city, but the people not only acknowledged Christ as King by their actions, but they also acknowledged Him by their words. In Matthew 21:9, it says, *And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.* These people, although they went through the motions, still ejected the King.

I want you to notice with me the promise from the Word, words of encouragement for the Jewish nation. They had refused Jesus Christ at that time. As we read on we find that there is coming a day when the Jewish people will recognize Jesus as King and Savior, and then they will be restored.

Zechariah 12:10 says, *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

Zechariah 13:6 says, *And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands?*

Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

And at that time these Jewish people, the Jewish nation, will recognize Jesus as the King, the one they rejected. They'll recognize the one they had crucified. They'll recognize Him as the Messiah, the Savior, the one who came to seek and to save.

I wonder today about you. Have you received Him as your Savior? Jesus wants to save you right now if you'll ask Him to come into your heart. Don't reject Him. Don't refuse to receive Him into your heart. Ask Him, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior right now."

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.