

PALM SUNDAY
Matthew 21;1-11

INTRODUCTION: Today is the day historically we celebrate the triumphal entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Many of those present had heard of Jesus of Nazareth and had heard how He had restored sight to the blind, made the lame to walk, cast out demons and raised the dead to life. John 11:38-53. The crowds believe Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, but something happened that changed their minds. John 12:12-19. This was the celebration of the Passover which means to exempt or to spare. God had passed over the houses of the Jews when he was slaying the firstborn of Egypt when He saw the blood. Exodus 12:21-23; Exodus 12:14-17.

I. GREAT JOY!

There was a joyous spirit in Jerusalem because of the Passover celebration but it was only temporary. Israel was not free. They were a part of the Roman Empire which ruled over Israel with an iron hand. The nation of Israel was awaiting the Jewish Messiah King to rescue them from Roman domination. Jesus came into Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecy given about Him: Zachariah 9:9; Matthew 21:8-9.

II. SHORT LIVED JOY!

We are not much different today with our Hosannas; when Jesus acts the way we want Him to and expect Him to we shout for joy. But when He responds to us in a way we did not expect the shouting for joy often turns to frustration. The nation of Israel expected their Messiah to rescue them from Roman dominance but that is not what happened. This man Jesus that they thought was the Messiah did not assemble an army to overthrow the Romans. Instead of uniting the leaders of the nation He revealed their sins and wicked ways: Matthew 21:12-13. Jesus even told the people of Israel to keep paying taxes to the Romans: Matthew 22:15-21; Matthew 23:29-37.

III. JESUS DOES THE UNEXPECTED!

Our Lord Jesus did everything the nation of Israel did not expect and everything they did not want. That is why the praises were silenced and the joy they felt in their hearts turned to anger. That brings us back to today: how do we respond when our Lord Jesus allows the unexpected in our lives? Isaiah 55:8-9. Our Lord does not always give us what we want but He does always give us what we need. Philippians 4:19: Sadly, our problems come when what we want is not what our heavenly Father knows we need. When we continue to focus on what we think we need and not on our Father's will we miss our God's plans. John 1:10-11. Jesus came to liberate Israel from far more than the Roman Empire's grasp. Jesus came to open the doors to the Kingdom of heaven for both Jews and Gentiles so they might have eternal life. John 1:10-13. Jesus came to liberate His people from the empire of Satan. Jesus always acts to fulfill the will of His Father in heaven not the will of man. We must guard our hearts so we don't allow our expectations of how we expect our Lord to take our joy and rejoicing in Him away.