

Many people are wondering when the “Stay at home” order is going to come to an end so that life can begin to get back to normal. Even though we are not hearing as much about it right now, many are wondering who is going to win the election later this year. People always like to speculate about what is going to happen in the future even though no one knows for sure. They may be right, they may be wrong, but at least they have something to talk about. In Jerusalem, as people were beginning to come there for the Passover, people were speculating whether this Jesus from Nazareth was going to dare to show up. The leaders of the people had put out a warrant for His arrest, so many people thought He would stay away in order to protect Himself from arrest. Others wondered whether He still might try to sneak in to make an appearance. On this Palm Sunday, Jesus provided an answer to all of these questions as He made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Today, as we join the crowds that went before Him and those that followed after Him, let us also shout out, HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! We sing this praise because He is the majestic and mighty King, but at the same time He is a gentle and gracious King.

Today, as we look toward the events of this most momentous week in history, the week we call holy week, we have the advantage of knowing the outcome. But the people of that day could only speculate about what they believed might happen. Since the leaders of the people had put out a warrant for Jesus’ arrest, most people thought that Jesus would certainly be looking out for His own skin by staying away. But that was not the way Jesus knew it had to be. The Son of Man must go up to Jerusalem and be handed over into the hands of sinful men, as Jesus had told His disciples. Jesus did not try to sneak into Jerusalem without being seen. Instead, He was going to enter Jerusalem with the pomp and grandeur that was due Him as the Savior Whom God had sent to this world as its Redeemer. He wanted the world to know, even at this point in time, that He was not a victim of circumstances. Rather, He was the majestic King who willingly was going to Jerusalem to fulfill all of the prophecies which the Lord had made throughout the Old Testament.

Jesus gave glimpses that He was the majestic and mighty King in the way that He came to Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday. Even before entering the city, He displayed His royal power by showing His omniscience. **“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.”** (2) Jesus knew all things, and this is just a little indication of it. Without ever going on ahead, Jesus knew what could be found there. His disciples whom He had sent found everything just as Jesus had said.

Once they got there, and found the donkey and her colt, they were to bring them to Jesus. But Jesus also knew that the owners would ask them what they were doing, for it looked like they were stealing them. Jesus had said, **“If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”** (3) It happened just as Jesus had said, and the owners let them take the donkey to Jesus. This was not a pre-arranged thing which Jesus had made with them, for each of the gospel writers write with amazement that this happened. This was an indication of the power of Savior. The Lord has need of them was sufficient for these owners to permit them to borrow their donkey. So Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem does show that He is the majestic and mighty King of the Universe, the very Son of God Who has come into this world.

The crowds on that first Palm Sunday recognized Who Jesus was, and that is why they had this procession which was fit for a king. The disciples put their cloaks on the donkey, and then set Jesus on it. **“A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.”** This was the way that they welcomed back victorious kings from battle. The words from the Psalms which they used to sing His praises were the words which meant that they were recognizing Him as the promised Messiah which God was to send into this world.

Because He is the Son of God, we know why He is going to Jerusalem. He is not going there just to receive the adoration of the people, but He is going there to lay down His life as the Savior of the world. So even though He is the majestic and mighty King, He also reveals Himself as a gentle and gracious

King. This was in direct fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. When Jesus sent His disciples to get this donkey upon which to ride, He was conspicuously fulfilling the prophecy which we heard in our Old Testament lesson today. A conquering hero would have been riding a valiant steed, a war horse. **“See, your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”** (5) He was not coming to conquer the nations, but to bring true and lasting peace to them.

Even the words with which they praised Him were evidence of His love and grace. **“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.”** (9) The Son of David is a reference to the prophecy made to David that the Savior would come from his line that would rule forever. Hosanna is a word which had come to mean that the highest praise should be given to this promised Son of David, the Messiah Who was to come. When they called Jesus blessed, they were speaking of the blessings which were to come through Him. He was to bring blessings to the pitiful people on earth because He had been sent by God. In other words, this Jesus was going to fulfill the promises made to them by bringing the spiritual blessings which would be theirs forever.

Jesus is a gentle and gracious King Who was coming to them, for He was not interested in just receiving their accolades on this Palm Sunday, but He was willing to go on from this day for the real reason He had come to this earth. He had come to die, to lay down His life as a ransom for the sins of the world. Jesus had chosen the way of the cross to become the gracious King of salvation for the world. That was His love for us, that He was willing to come and willing to lay His life down for us miserable sinners.

But certainly we are thankful to Him that He has done this for you and for me. It is for this reason that we are to join in this joyous celebration, for He came to be our King of salvation. So let us also sing Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. He has come in fulfillment of God’s promises to bring grace and every blessing to fallen mankind. He is the majestic and mighty King Who is able to do this for us, and Who daily watches over and cares for all of our needs, both spiritual and temporal. It is for this reason that we will be willing to listen to His voice and do what He bids us.

As we begin the week that we call “Holy Week,” we know what is going to happen. There is no need for us to speculate. But there is truly a need for us to join the crowds in singing the praise of our Savior. It is fitting and proper for Jesus to receive this praise before He laid down His life for us all on the cross. May we recognize what He has done for us and join in singing His praises on this Palm Sunday.