



# Walking With the Savior

## Through An Eyewitness Account of John

**John**, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds. As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. ***Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.***

## Background Matters

This story of Christ's riding in triumph to Jerusalem is recorded by all the evangelists, as worthy of special remark; and in it we may observe,

I. The respect that was paid to our Lord Jesus by the common people, v. 12, 13, where we are told, 1. Who they were that paid him this respect: *much people, ochlos polys—a great crowd* of those that came up to the feast; not the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but the country people that came from remote parts to worship at the feast; the nearer the temple of the Lord, the further from the Lord of the temple. They were such as *came up to the feast*. (1.) Perhaps they had been Christ's hearers in the country, and great admirers of him there, and therefore were forward to testify their respect to him at Jerusalem, where they knew he had many enemies. Note, Those that have a true value and veneration for Christ will neither be ashamed nor afraid to own him before men in any instance whereby they may do him honour. (2.) Perhaps they were those more *devout Jews* that came up to the feast some time before, to purify themselves, that were more inclined to religion than their neighbours, and these were they that were so forward to honour Christ. Note, The more regard men



have to God and religion in general, the better disposed they will be to entertain Christ and his religion, which is not destructive but perfective of all previous discoveries and institutions. They were not the rulers, nor the great men, that went out to meet Christ, but the commonalty; some would have called them a mob, a rabble: but Christ has chosen the weak and foolish things (1 Co. 1:27), and is honoured more by the multitude than by the magnificence of his followers; for he values men by their souls, not their names and titles of honour.

2. On what occasion they did it: *They heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem*. They had enquired for him (ch. 11:55, 56): *Will he not come up to the feast?* And now they hear he is coming; for none that seek Christ seek in vain. Now when they heard he was coming, they bestirred themselves, to give him an agreeable reception. Note, Tidings of the approach of Christ and his kingdom should awaken us to consider what is the work of the day, that it may be done in the day. Israel must prepare to meet *their God* (Amos 4:12), and the virgins to *meet the bridegroom*.

3. In what way they expressed their respect; they had not the keys of the city to present to him, nor the sword nor mace to carry before him, none of the city music to compliment him with, but such as they had they gave him; and even this despicable crowd was a faint resemblance of that glorious company which John saw *before the throne, and before the Lamb*, Rev. 7:9, 10. Though these were not before the throne, they were before the Lamb, the paschal Lamb, who now, according to the usual ceremony, four days before the feast, was set apart to be sacrificed for us. There it is said of that celestial choir,

(1.) That they had palms in their hands, and so had these *branches of palm-trees*. The palm-tree has ever been an emblem of victory and triumph; Cicero calls one that had won many prizes *plurimarum palmarum homo—a man of many palms*. Christ was now by his death to conquer principalities and powers, and therefore it was fit that he should have the victor's palm borne before him; though he was but girding on the harness, yet he could boast as though he had put it off. But this was not all; the carrying of palm-branches was part of the ceremony of the feast of tabernacles (Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:15), and their using this expression of joy in the welcome given to our Lord Jesus intimates that all the feasts pointed at his gospel, had their accomplishment in it, and particularly that of the feast of tabernacles, Zec. 14:16.

(2.) That they *cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God* (Rev. 7:10); so did these here, they shouted before him, as is usual in popular welcomes, *Hosanna, blessed is the king of Israel, that comes in the name of the Lord*; and *hosanna* signifies *salvation*. It is quoted from Ps. 118:25, 26. See how well acquainted these common people were with the scripture, and how pertinently they apply it to the Messiah. High thoughts of Christ will be best expressed in scripture-words. Now in their acclamations, [1.] They acknowledge our Lord Jesus to be the king of Israel, that comes *in the name of the Lord*. Though he went now in poverty and disgrace, yet, contrary to the notions their scribes had given them of the Messiah, they own him to be a king, which bespeaks both his dignity and honour, which we must adore; and his dominion and power, to which we must submit. They own him to be, *First*, A rightful king, coming in *the name of the Lord* (Ps. 2:6), sent of God, not only as a prophet, but as a king. *Secondly*, The promised and long-expected king, Messiah the prince, for he is *king of Israel*. According to the light they had, they proclaimed him king of Israel in the streets of Jerusalem; and, they themselves being Israelites, hereby they avouched him for their king. [2.] They heartily wish well to his kingdom, which is the meaning of *hosanna*; let the king of Israel prosper, as when Solomon



was crowned they cried, *God save king Solomon*, 1 Ki. 1:39. In crying hosanna they prayed for three things:—*First*, That his kingdom might come, in the light and knowledge of it, and in the power and efficacy of it. God speed the gospel plough. *Secondly*, That it might conquer, and be victorious over all opposition, Rev. 6:2. *Thirdly*, That it might continue. Hosanna is, *Let the king live for ever*; though his kingdom may be disturbed, let it never be destroyed, Ps. 72:17. [3.] They bid him welcome into Jerusalem: “*Welcome is he that cometh*; we are heartily glad to see him; *come in thou blessed of the Lord*; and well may we attend with our blessings him who meets us with his.” This welcome is like that (Ps. 24:7–9), *Lift up your heads, O ye gates*. Thus we must every one of us bid Christ welcome into our hearts, that is, we must praise him, and be well pleased in him. As we should be highly pleased with the being and attributes of God, and his relation to us, so we should be with the person and offices of the Lord Jesus, and his meditation between us and God. Faith saith, *Blessed is he that cometh*.<sup>1</sup>

### **This Week in "Walking With the Savior,"**

***The crowd kept getting bigger and bigger. Word was spreading through the city that Lazarus had been raised from the dead, and the news stirred up excitement and wonder. More and more people came out to meet Jesus. It was a joyful day, but there was still a sadness underneath it all: the people didn't really understand the deeper spiritual meaning.***

***The huge welcome Jesus received left the Pharisees frustrated and feeling powerless. Their plans were falling apart. They had been “looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. ‘But not during the Feast,’ they said, ‘or the people may riot.’”***

### **Study Guide 39**

***This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.***

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1998–1999.



# JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

John 12:12–19

Topics:

Enthusiasm, Evangelism, Expectations, Glory, Good News, Honor, Jesus Christ, Miracles, Praise, Prophecy, Worship

**Open It, Mondays.** Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. \*How do people usually react when they meet a celebrity? Why?

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2. Who are today's religious celebrities?

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**Explore It, Tuesdays,** keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

3. What had the crowd heard about Jesus? (12:12)

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4. \*How did the crowd greet Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem? (12:13)

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5. What title did the crowd ascribe to Jesus? (12:13)

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6. What prophetic event took place? (12:14–15)

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7. What had been written about this event? (12:15)

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8. When did Jesus' disciples realize the significance of these events? (12:16)

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**Push on Wednesdays;** keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. \*What did the crowd that was with Jesus do when He raised Lazarus? (12:17)

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10. \*Why did many of the people go out to meet Jesus? (12:18)

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11. How did the Pharisees react to this event? (12:19)

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12. \*What did you hear about Jesus that led you to seek Him?

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13. How should Jesus be the ruler in our lives?

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14. When are you reluctant to allow Jesus to take His rightful place as King in your life?

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**Get It Thursdays,** keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

15. What area of your life is difficult for you to surrender to Christ's authority?

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16. How should we honor and worship Jesus as King?

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17. \*How should we spread the Word about Jesus?

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18. What specific area of your life do you need to submit more consistently to the authority of Jesus? How?

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**Drive it Home, Fridays,** keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

19. With whom do you need to share the good news about Jesus Christ? How can you?

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20. \*How will you honor and worship Jesus with your life today?

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*A Journey Through The Gospel of John* **2026**

Download your study guide at: [Unlockingthetruth.us](http://Unlockingthetruth.us)