

## **"Saddle Up with the Savior"**

**Mount of Olives | July 6, 2025 | John 12:12-19**

**Pastor John Steward**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful to live in a country that honors and celebrates freedom, but we are even more overwhelmed by the liberty that comes to us through Jesus Christ—freedom from sin and death. We thank You for Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

John 12:12-19

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

### **Message Notes**

Luke 22:41-42

Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Proverbs 22:4

The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Psalms 143:10

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

Ephesians 5:15-17

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

### **Study Questions – Read John 12:12-19**

#### **ICEBREAKER – Getting started:**

1. John 12:12-19 is often read as we celebrate Palm Sunday. This week it is being read to introduce our theme for Kids Camp: "Saddle Up for the Savior." Jesus *saddled up* as he made his Triumphal Entry. Have you ever ridden a horse, donkey, camel, or any other animal? If so, share the situation. Where were you? Did you enjoy the experience?

2. For Christ to purposefully make His way back toward Jerusalem was, essentially, to walk toward His death. Describe a time when you intentionally moved toward a difficult or dangerous situation in your life. Describe the situation. What thoughts/emotions did you experience at that time?

**Based on John 12:12-19, answer the following questions:**

**OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

1. As you read John 12:12-19, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

**INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?**

1. It really helps to think about the logistics surrounding Palm Sunday. The village of Bethany is just over a mile from the crest of the Mount of Olives—on the same “Palm Sunday Road” that Jesus traveled down and into Jerusalem. We learn from verse 9 that large crowds of people came out to Bethany to see both Jesus and Lazarus on Saturday—the day before Palm Sunday. The streets of Jerusalem were jam-packed due to it being the national holiday of Passover & the Feast of Unleavened Bread (12:1). The crowds were at a near fever-pitch with expectation, wondering if Jesus would make an appearance at Passover (11:55-56). Raising Lazarus from the dead added fuel to the fire! (12:17-18). How does putting these pieces together help bring a deeper level of understanding to the events surround Palm Sunday?
2. In what ways were their expectations and desires different from the heart of Jesus? List as many differences as you can think of.
3. What are the implications of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (v. 14)?
4. What do you think the expectations of the crowd were as they shouted, “Hosanna!” (v. 13)?
5. Read Zechariah 9:9. How does this verse describe Israel’s “king”? The sign that was placed over Jesus’ head, as he hung on the cross read: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”. According to verse 16, it appears that the disciples didn’t understand any of this until after the resurrection and ascension. Why do you think they had so much trouble understanding who Jesus was at this time?
6. What do you think the Pharisees meant in verse 19 when they said, “This is getting us nowhere.” *What* do you think was “getting them nowhere”?
7. When it said that the “whole world” had “gone after Him”— do you think that was an exaggeration or was that intended to be taken literally? What do you think was meant by that statement?

**APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?**

1. What is one new thing you have learned from John 12:12-19?
2. How might you apply this new understanding to your life?
3. As children *saddle up* and enter our campus this week for Kids Camp, please pray for our staff, our volunteers, and that the hearts of the kids would be open for Jesus to make his Triumphal Entry!