

## A JESUS PARADE

John 12:12-19

April 1, 2007 Wednesday

### INTRODUCTION

- A. A little boy stayed home from church with his mother because he was sick. When his dad returned from attending church he had a palm branch with him. The boy wanted to know what the palm branch was for. His dad told him that when Jesus entered Jerusalem as a part of a parade all the people waved palm branches at him. The boy replied, "Wouldn't you know it, the one week I miss church, Jesus shows up!"
- B. Jesus showed up in Jerusalem for what is called , "The Triumphal Entry." This event occurred on what we call today, "Palm Sunday". Its reported in all four gospels. Today lets read John's account in John 12:12-19.
- C. Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem in a parade? This parade shares two important messages to the people of Jesus' day and ours. What are those messages?

### I. FIRST, JESUS' PARADE WAS A MESSAGE OF LOVE.

- A. This event was out of character for Jesus.
  - 1. Prior to this day, Jesus had always avoided the spotlight.
  - 2. On several occasions Jesus told the people he healed not to tell anyone how it happened.
- B. This parade, however, was organized by Jesus himself.
  - 1. Luke (19:30-31) tells us Jesus arranged a head of time to use a donkey to ride in the parade-v.14.
  - 2. This was not a spontaneous demonstration. Jesus orchestrated it from beginning to end.
- C. Why did Jesus plan this parade?
  - 1. First, because it was time for a parade-v.23.
    - a. It was time to confront the religious leaders he had been avoiding.
    - b. It was time to present himself as the world's Savior. This is the meaning of what was said-v.13 ("Hosanna").
  - 2. Second, because his arrest, trial, and crucifixion were no accident. Jesus voluntarily entered Jerusalem that day and put those events into motion. (Bill Hybels quote).
    - a. This means he was not the victim of circumstances.
    - b. This means he was not in the wrong place at the wrong time.
    - c. This means Jesus chose to go to the cross voluntarily for us.

### II. SECOND, JESUS' PARADE WAS A MESSAGE OF HOPE.

- A. John quoted the Old Testament prophet Zechariah (9:9) in v. 15.
  - 1. When Solomon was anointed king, he rode into the city on a mule, to the shouts and praises of the people (1 Kings 1:43-45).  
Zechariah prophesied the Messiah would arrive the same way "gentle and riding on a donkey" (Zech. 9:9).
  - 2. Jesus' parade was his way of fulfilling this Messianic prophecy.
  - 3. Jesus came to be our King too.
- B. There is another word of hope here. What?
  - 1. God has a plan for our salvation-John 3:16.
  - 2. God also has a plan for our lives.
    - a. The disciples didn't see God's plan at first-v.16.
    - b. You may not see his plan for you, but he has one. Notice three in this passage.
      - i. God's first plan for your life is to save you-v.13 ("Hosanna") and v.15 ("Your King").
      - ii. God's second plan for your life is to calm your fears-v.15a.
      - iii. God's third plan for your life is to use you-v.16b.
        - 1) To praise him-12.

2). To share him-17-18.

## **CONCLUSION**

A. This was Jesus' Parade.

1. It delivered through drama and pageantry a message of love-Jesus loved us enough to voluntarily walk to the cross.
2. And a message of hope-for our salvation and for our lives.

B. Thank God for the Parade!

### **Bill Hybels Quote**

On Palm Sunday—six days before Jesus' death—people lined the streets, waving palms as he entered Jerusalem. It was the first-century equivalent of our ticker-tape parades for heroes down the streets of New York City.

Jesus' popularity was at an all-time high; his teaching had astonishing power. Jesus had changed people's hearts and healed them physically. He'd even recently brought someone back from the dead! By far, Jesus was one of the most popular people in the entire Middle East.

But everyone who lined the streets had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were political activists; they'd heard Jesus had supernatural power, and they wanted him to use it to free Israel from Roman rule. Others had loved ones who were sick or dying. They waved branches, hoping for physical healing. Some were onlookers merely looking for something to do, while others were genuine followers who wished Jesus would establish himself as an earthly king. Jesus was the only one in the parade who knew why he was going to Jerusalem—to die. He had a mission, while everyone else had an agenda.