

Hosanna!

Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction:

- Beware of regarding emotional excitement as identical with religious feelings...The religion of some people exhausts itself in hallelujahs; they possess no constant principle. (J. R. Bailey.)
- Too many Christians are “floaters.” Not enduring, or faithful.
- What does it mean to have a sincere cry of -Hosanna!-?
- It was the Passover time, and Jerusalem was jam-packed with visitors. During Passover time more than two and a half million people crowded their way into Jerusalem. Jews from every corner of the world made their way to the greatest of their national festivals. Jesus could not have chosen a more dramatic moment to enter the city.

I. Jesus' Triumphal Entry

- a. It marks the beginning of Jesus' last week leading up to the cross.
- b. This is one of the few events in Jesus' ministry that all 4 gospels record- it is very significant!
- c. When they drew near Jerusalem: Jesus knew that the religious leaders were going to arrest Him and condemn Him and mock Him and scourge Him and deliver Him to the Romans for crucifixion (Matthew 20:19). Yet He had the courage to not only enter Jerusalem, but to enter in as public a way as possible.
- d. This is different than His previous pattern of suppressing any publicity. (Tell no man)
- e. He never went around trying to garner publicity and popularity, but now it was time to allow it to happen
- f. He will publicly return again to this Earth!
- g. (Mat 21:1-6) Jesus instructs His disciples regarding preparation for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

- h. You will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her: Jesus would ride upon the younger of these animals, the colt. He told the disciples how they would find these animals, and instructed them to bring both animals.
 - i. Colt/foal are terms used to describe a young donkey
 - ii. This was clearly planned, and pre-arranged by Jesus
 - iii. The Lord hath need of them- Seeming paradox! To accomplish His purposes God has “need” of us too! This does not make Him any less God- it is to show how God has chosen to work- through us and with us! He is still searching today!
 - iv. Note: the obedience of the disciples, and the owner of the animals
- i. Fulfilment of Zechariah 9:9-10. The prophet only mentions one animal, but Matthew affirms he only rode on the colt
- j. “Mark tells us that the colt had never before been ridden (Mark 11:2), so that it would be only prudent to bring its mother as well to reassure it among the noisy crowd.” (France)
- k. Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled at Christ’s first coming. Verses 10 and following refers to the 2nd coming when the Messiah will reign after defeating His enemies.
- l. Prophecy students: Consider Daniel’s incredible prophecy!- Daniel 9:24-27. 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to 30 AD! God’s Word is true!
- m. V. 5- Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass:
- n. His arrival signified “The King is here!” Illustr- VIP limousine and motorcade
- o. Oh, that Christ would have such an entry in the hearts of men today! Behold, your king!
- p. Jesus came to Jerusalem in humility. Humility triumphs over pride!
- q. Some people wrongly think humility is lack of courage/weakness and never speaking out against sin. Remember, next Jesus would go into the temple and chase out the merchants with a whip!

- r. Instead of coming on a large stallion/war-horse as a conquering general, He came on a colt. He came to Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace.
 - s. In the ancient Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses if they rode to war, but donkeys if they came in peace. First Kings 1:33 mentions Solomon riding a donkey on the day he was recognized as the new king of Israel.
- II. The Response of the multitude- v. 8-11
- a. Laid their clothes on them...spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches (palms) from the trees and spread them on the road: All this was done to honor Jesus as a great, triumphant person
 - i. Palm trees were a sign for success and victory (Palm Sunday)
 - ii. See Rev. 7:9
 - b. Their cry: Hosanna to the Son of David! This was open Messianic adoration of Jesus.
 - i. Hosanna is often thought of as a declaration of praise, similar to hallelujah, but it is actually a plea for salvation. The Hebrew root words are found in Psalm 118:25, which says, "Save us, we beseech Thee, O Lord!" The Hebrew words yasha ("deliver, save") and anna ("beg, beseech") combine to form the word that, in English, is "hosanna." Literally, hosanna means "I beg you to save!" or "please deliver us!"
 - ii. (Hosanna means "save now!" and was addressed to kings, as in 2 Samuel 14:4 and 2 Kings 6:26).
 - iii. It may be that the word hosanna had lost some of its original meaning; and that it had become to some extent only a cry of welcome and of acclamation, like "Hail!";
 - iv. They openly give Jesus the titles appropriate for the Messiah (Son of David...He who comes in the name of the Lord).
 - v. Note: Jesus received and indeed encouraged this worship
 - c. The city was moved- Because they were in the presence of the King! The work must first begin in our own individual hearts!

- d. Consider: How strange is it that many of these same people in just a few days will exchange their hosannas for, Away with him! Crucify him! Crucify him! This was a fickle multitude! Much like here in America- many simply want a casual, outward acknowledgment of Christ. They “follow” Him but at a distance, and only when convenient and popular. This was not a sincere “Hosanna.”
 - e. Unfortunately, the praise the people lavished on Jesus was not because they recognized Him as their Savior from sin. They welcomed Him out of their desire for a political deliverer, someone who would lead them in a revolt against Rome.
 - f. When He failed in their expectations, when He refused to lead them in a massive revolt against the Roman, the crowds quickly turned on Him.
 - g. Similarly many churches today push for a social gospel/liberation theology
 - i. Rise up over economic oppression, social oppression, etc.
 - ii. Jesus is a spiritual deliverer!
 - h. Many crave a political revolution instead of a spiritual revival!
- III. Our response today
- a. V. 10-11- An important inquiry- “Who is this?”
 - b. Recognizing all that Christ is-
 - i. Prophet, Priest, King
 - ii. Prophet (God before man), Priest (man before God), King (rules over all)
 - c. Matthew presents Christ as King! At his crucifixion they mockingly called him the King of the Jews
 - d. We need a true Hosanna, and triumphal entry into our hearts!- Romans 10:13
 - i. Calling demands genuine repentance
 - ii. Calling demands genuine faith in Christ alone!
 - iii. This leads to genuine surrender
 - e. Jesus is not just your idol or charm to help fix all your problems- He is Lord over all and demands our worship and surrender!
 - f. Many preachers today use the gospel, and Jesus simply as a self-help tool rather than a King to worship and surrender to.

- g. Note his first act after this entry was to cleanse the temple! Outward fanfare vs. inward cleansing and holiness
- h. Jesus' coming required a response (not ambivalence)
 - i. Total ignorance/rejection of His person and work
 - ii. Superficial approval
 - iii. Humble surrender to His lordship – bow the knee!
- i. The bad example this multitude set for future “believers.”
- j. The danger of mere profession and not possession
- k. Facebook culture- just click like and keep on scrolling
- l. There is nothing casual or cool about following Christ. It is countercultural, it is consuming, and overshadows every part our lives
- m. Sadly, many churches have a “mixed multitude” that will only be made evident at the judgment

Conclusion:

- Christ's courage, Christ's claim, Christ's call (invitation)- kingship of the heart
- The story of the triumphal entry is one of contrasts, and those contrasts contain applications to believers. It is the story of the King who came as a lowly servant on a donkey, not a prancing steed, not in royal robes, but on the clothes of the poor and humble. Jesus Christ comes not to conquer by force as earthly kings but by love, grace, mercy, and His own sacrifice for His people. His is not a kingdom of armies and splendor but of lowliness and servanthood. He conquers not nations but hearts and minds. His message is one of peace with God, not of temporal peace. If Jesus has made a triumphal entry into our hearts, He reigns there in peace and love. As His followers, we exhibit those same qualities, and the world sees the true King living and reigning in triumph in us.
- Have you responded with a genuine “Hosanna”?