

# Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

April 2nd

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 21:1-11

*Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King*

*Palm Sunday*

Palm Sunday provokes a multilayered reflection. We see the Kingship of Jesus humbly presented as a prince of peace riding on a donkey. We see the unbridled adoration of the crowd with joyous expression, both physical and verbal. We note that as he rides into Jerusalem, and that the cross and resurrection loom close on the horizon. We know it will be a mere matter of days before the Hosannah of the crowd turns into a baying pack of blood thirsty dogs, calling for the death of the Messiah. Given all this, I personally find Palm Sunday a ray of sunshine with dark foreboding storms clouds quickly gathering.

*Reading*

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "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. **3** If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." **4** This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: **5** "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna **[b]** to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" **[c]** "Hosanna **[d]** in the highest heaven!" **10** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" **11** The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (NIV)

## *Reflection*

The crowd's praise was joyous, loud and physically expressive. How would you describe your praise of King Jesus the Messiah?

In what way is it different from the crowd?

Why might that be?

In ancient times Kings rode horses in times of war and donkeys in times of peace. Jesus rode a untried colt as The Prince of Peace. Reflecting on different spheres such as your personal life; national life and international scene – jot down some point where you would love to see peace become real and transformative.

It is easy and understandable to judge the fickle crowd who change their tune from praise to 'crucify him'. It's virtually impossible to completely identify with them. It may be however more plausible to identify with Peter in the high priest's courtyard when pressed denied his association with Jesus.

In what settings or relationships do you find the most pressure to compromise your faith or go quiet about being a Christian?

Pray through your points for peace in the areas of – personal life; national issues and international scene.