John 12:12-26 6/22/2025

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

INTRODUCTION

On May 6, 2023, Charles III was officially installed as the King of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The parade cost the English government more than 90 million dollars with the majority of it going towards decoration, security, and transportation for the event. On the contrary, Jesus final trip to Jerusalem in order to identify Himself as the king of Israel was very modest which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at "4 Phases to Jesus' Humble Entrance into Jerusalem."

1). It Began with a Humble Parade (verses 12-13).

Verses 12-13 says, "On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."

Discussion Question A: Explain the meaning of this passage in your own words. Why did the crowd take out palm branches and shout "Hosanna" when Jesus came into Jerusalem?

Discussion Question B: How was this a fulfillment of prophecy and what are some other prophecies that Jesus came to fulfill as the Messiah? Did the Jews have a balanced perspective on the issue of those prophecies or not?

2). It Continued with a Humble King (verses 14-16).

Verses 14-16 says, "Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, 'Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.' These things His disciples did not understand …"

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem?

Discussion Question B: Was this the typical animal that a king used in order to enter his capitol city at this time? What was it and how did Jesus' use of a donkey demonstrate that He would be a different sort of king than what the Jews were expecting?

3). It Led to a Humble Response (verses 17-19).

Verses 17-19 says, "So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him. For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, 'You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.'"

Discussion Question A: While the people of Israel's response to Jesus was pretty positive in this passage, how would it change by the end of Passion Week?

Discussion Question B: How is this a good reminder to us that the real thing lasts? Can you think of some other examples of people in the Bible who were pretty excited about Jesus at first but changed their mind afterwards?

4). It Ended in a Humble Conversation (verses 20-26).

Verses 20-21 says, "Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Discussion Question A: Describe the Greek's reaction to Jesus in this passage. What were they doing in Jerusalem and what was Jesus' advice to them in verses 23-36?

Discussion Question B: What did Jesus mean when He said "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit?" How was this a reference to the cross?