

JOHN 12:12-22
THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 12 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

In our study of John chapter 12 we saw that Jesus came to the house of Simon the leper for a meal. And there at the house was Mary and Martha as well as their brother Lazarus, whom Jesus rose from the dead.

And it is here that Mary anoints the head and feet of Jesus with costly oil, “*oil of spikenard*” and then wiped His feet with her hair.

And Jesus tells us that she did this for the day of His burial to silence Judas and the other disciples who were complaining that this oil could have been used to help the poor. I think the other disciples had good intentions even though they were wrong, but Judas was interested in taking the money for himself!

Now it is interesting because as word got out that Lazarus was there at this meal, people started coming to see this miracle. You see, his life was a testimony of what God can do and because of his witness, many came to believe in Jesus!

But not all were happy with what was going on, which is strange but when things don't go the way you want to believe, even though the Scriptures testify of what you see, you try to destroy the evidence, put to silence those who are promoting it.

That was what the Jewish religious leaders were doing. We are told in John 12:10-11, **“But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.”**

Poor Lazarus, everywhere he went he had to wonder if someone was watching him, following him, going to try and kill him.

But, like I have said many times before, that is what religion does, it kills and destroys things, but Jesus gives us life as we see with Lazarus!

The focus of our study this morning will be – ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!***

Now I do realize that many don't see this as a big deal, but it is. And from this we can learn a lot about what God has told us and our responsibility with that information, what we do with it.

Knowledge is important, and correct knowledge or information is vital to our well-being. And yet today, we see knowledge growing, changing so fast that we can't keep up with it.

Let me show you what I mean. We are told in an article from 2020,

In his book, ***Critical path***, Buckminster Fuller (Fuller 1981), American architect, systems theorist, author, designer, inventor, and futurist, created the 'knowledge doubling curve'.

He noticed that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every century and by the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years.

Some years later a report published by IBM anecdotally [according to or by means of personal accounts rather than facts or research.] added to Fuller's theory and predicted by 2020 knowledge would double every 12 hours fueled by the Internet of Things (Schilling 2013).

Different types of knowledge have different rates of growth, but it is generally acknowledged that human knowledge is increasing at an extraordinary rate. Arguably we may have reached a point where relevant knowledge is increasing faster and in greater quantities than we can absorb.

However, while knowledge is increasing, the useful lifespan of knowledge is decreasing. Consequently, we need to be constantly replacing out-of-date knowledge with new knowledge in a continuous process of unlearning and learning.

Knowledge alone however is not sufficient and as important as the ability to apply good judgement based on knowledge . . . what we know as wisdom. It is knowledge and wisdom put into action that gives us insight.

- <https://bit.ly/3yKWcj3>

Here is the problem. There is so much information out there it is hard to keep up with the ever-changing ideas that come across our path.

Let me just share these stats with you regarding Facebook and keep in mind that it was started in 2004 for only Harvard students and then in 2006 it was opened to everyone and today, there are 2.375 billion monthly active users, 1.49 billion daily active users, Facebook adds 500,000 new users every day! And this information was from 2018!

Now how much information goes onto Facebook that so many people get all kinds of things, whether true or not, from? How many Facebook posts are there per day? On average, there are 4.75 billion items shared by Facebook users each day. And there are 10 billion Facebook messages that are sent each day.

That is social media alone, not all the books, papers, reports that are put forth each day!

What can we do since information keeps changing and changing quickly and there is no way we can keep up with all of it?

Get into the Bible, the Word of God because it is unchanging. What God has written for us is for us today and we can trust it, learn from it, grow from it, and understand the days we are living in from it!

Again, we will see that this morning as we look at – ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!***

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into the following points.

They are,

INSPECTION DAY – JOHN 12:12-15

SPIRITUAL REVELATION – JOHN 12:16

SUPERFICIAL FOLLOWING – JOHN 12:17-18

FOOLISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS – JOHN 12:19

LOOKING FOR JESUS – JOHN 12:20-22

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 12, beginning with verse 12 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at – ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!***

JOHN 12

VERSES 12-15

Notice how this verse starts out, "**The next day**" or the day after the events that took place at the house of Simon the ex-leper!

So let me see if I can lay out the timeframe for you, and keep in mind that this triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem begins what has been called the Passion Week or the week leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.

It seems that Jesus came to Bethany for this meal, six days before the Passover or sometime Friday afternoon.

This meal took place in the evening and thus, when the sun went down, it was a new day for the Jewish people as their days went from sundown to sunrise. So that would place this meal on Saturday evening, our Friday night.

So we now come to the “**next day**” or Sunday, a day we call Palm Sunday because of the events that transpired here.

Now, remember what I have called these verses – *INSPECTION DAY!*

I know, you may be thinking that I should have called it – *THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY DAY!* But as you will see - *INSPECTION DAY* fits perfectly!

You see, it is now the 10th of Nisan and, according to the book of Exodus, this was the day that the people would bring their Passover lambs to be inspected for any spot or blemish.

And from the 10th of Nisan to the 14th of Nisan this would take place.

Now, here it is the 10th of Nisan and what is Jesus doing?

Jesus is entering Jerusalem, and our Passover Lamb will be inspected for any spot or blemish.

He was inspected by the people, the religious leaders for any spot or blemish, and even the Roman officials, but, as Pilate rightly said, “**I find no fault in this Man.**” Luke 23:4.

That is what Peter tells us in I Peter 1:18-19, “**knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**”

Our redemption was not bought or purchased with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ! He gave His life to pay for our sins!

You see, it was not by our good works, the keeping of the Law, our aimless conduct that saves us.

No, it is by the precious blood of Christ that was shed for our sins.

Throughout the church history people have been led to believe that you can buy things from God, that you can buy your way into heaven.

Remember Simon in Acts chapter 8 who practiced sorcery and had a pseudo conversion experience.

When he saw the power of the Holy Spirit fall upon the believers in Samaria, he wanted to buy that power – but Peter rebuked him saying, “. . . ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!’” Acts 8:20.

We see this portrayed in the Roman Catholic Church with its indulgences where you buy a candle, a Mass card, this and that so you can buy your way out of Purgatory and into heaven.

And the Protestant church where some believe if you sow your seed faith to God, He will multiply it back, He will heal you, He will do whatever you want as long as you show these televangelists the money!

But Peter tells us you can't purchase this gift of life because the shedding of the precious blood of Jesus Christ has already paid for it.

You see, the rich, the poor, the middle class, anyone who comes to Jesus can freely receive the gift of life because it was paid for by the shedding of His blood and not by my efforts, not by the money I have in my possession!

I want you to also notice that Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world was a perfect sacrifice. That is what was taking place here in John, the inspection of the sheep for the Passover and if there was a spot or blemish upon the sheep, they could not be offered.

But here is Jesus and Peter tells us that there was no “**blemish**” or acquired sin in His life.

Peter also tells us that there was no “**spot**” or inherited sin in His life.

And that is Paul’s point showing what Jesus has done for us, as he wrote in II Corinthians 5:21, “**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

You see, we could never pay for our own sin because we have many blemishes in our life or we have sin in our life.

Not only that, but we also have a big spot in our life or that sin that has been passed down to us through Adam!

If Jesus had a blemish or spot, He could not have been our Redeemer, but He didn’t and thus, He paid in full the penalty for our sin.

It is as Isaiah 53:4-6 tells us, “**Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**”

Praise God for His love for us and His sacrifice so that we can live with Him for eternity if we receive Him into our lives!

Also, as you look at the ministry of Jesus, He did not allow the people to worship Him as King, at least, not yet! Yes, they worshiped Him, but not as King and I will show you what I mean.

In John 6:15 we are told, “**Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.**”

Why would Jesus prevent them from doing that and yet here in John chapter 12 we see Him allow them to worship Him as King?

Because this is the day that the Lord had made, it was a day that was prophesied by Daniel the prophet. (Psalm 118:24)

Again, this was the only day that Jesus allowed the people to worship Him as the Messiah the King!

Now what did Daniel have to say about this day?

In Daniel chapter 9 Daniel is told that the time period of this prophecy is “**seventy weeks.**”

The Hebrew word for “**weeks**” is *SHABUA* and it speaks of sevens.

Thus, seventy sevens are determined upon the Jews and upon the city of Jerusalem. And the implication from the text, as Daniel was just reading of the 70 years of captivity, is that these are speaking of 70 seven-year periods or 490 years which will make up the time frame of this prophecy.

And remember, the focus is, “**Your people**” the Jews, and “**Your holy city**” Jerusalem.

Also, the Hebrew word for “**week**” is *HEPTAD* and it is like a decade that means ten or a dozen that means twelve.

This word means seven!

Now does it mean seven days, seven weeks, seven years? If it spoke of days that would make no sense and even weeks does not fit. But that is not the reason I believe that this is speaking of years.

In Genesis 29:20 we see this word used for “**week**” and it has to do with Jacob serving Laban for seven years for Laban’s daughter, Rachel’s, hand in marriage. It was not days, it was years and thus, the Law of First Mention tells us that the first time a word is used in the Scriptures, that is the meaning of that word.

At the end of those 490 years Israel will be restored, the Jewish people will come to their Messiah.

But what about this day, Palm Sunday?

We are told of this in Daniel 9:25 where we read, “**Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.**”

The time frame is seven weeks and sixty-two weeks or specifically, 49 years and 434 years.

What we will see at the end of this 483-year period is the ushering in of the “*Messiah the King*” or the *MASHIACH NAGID*.

This prophecy is based on a 360-day year as they were using the Babylonian calendar, and that would come to 173,880 days. If we can find the starting point, we then could count off the 173,880 days and come to this event.

Again, the Scriptures need to be our guide and thus, as we look at the Scriptures we can find four starting points, but only one is correct and you will see why. And we will look at the other three first before we get to the correct one so you can clearly see why we say they are wrong. And keep in mind the rebuilding of the city is the key.

- In Ezra chapter 1 we see a decree by Cyrus, King of Persia, to rebuild the Temple in around 536 B. C. But this is not speaking of the streets and the walls of the city but only the Temple and thus this is not the starting point.
- In Ezra chapter 6 we see a decree by Darius, King of Persia to again rebuild the Temple around 520 B. C. and thus, this too is not the starting point.
- In Ezra chapter 7 we see a decree by King Artaxerxes Longimanus to restore the articles of the Temple around 447 B. C. and again this is not the starting point. Do you see how clear it is, we are looking for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem!
- But in Nehemiah chapter 2 we see King Artaxerxes Longimanus give the command to Nehemiah to rebuild the streets and the walls. This is the starting point which we are told occurred in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes reign.

We see in the 1990 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica that it states that King Artaxerxes ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian Empire in July 465 B. C. So that means if the command was given in the twentieth year of his reign that would put the year the command was given at 445 B. C.

Now according to Hebrew tradition, when the day of the month is not specified, then it is taken to be the first day of that month. So the day of the decree by Artaxerxes was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan 445 B. C., which corresponds to the fourteenth day of March. Thus, our starting date is March 14, 445 B. C.

Now let's go back to the starting date of March 14, 445 B. C. and count off the 173,880 days to come to our end point, which will bring us to the Messiah.

Here is how we do it:

**MARCH 14, 445 B. C.
TO
MARCH 14, 32 A. D.
IS 476 YEARS
(FROM 1 BC TO 1 AD IS ONE YEAR. THERE IS NO YEAR FOR ZERO)
476 YEARS TIMES 365 DAYS PER YEAR = 173, 740 DAYS
ADD FOR LEAP YEARS = 116 DAYS*
MARCH 14 TO APRIL 6 = 24 DAYS
TOTAL = 173,880 DAYS!**

(1 day for every 4 years, (476 years divided by 4, 1 leap year for every four years, gives us an additional 119 days), subtract 3 years, for centennial years are not leap years, although every 400th year is a leap year, giving us 116 days in leap years.)

Now let's look at this a little closer. 173,880 days from our starting point of March 14, 445 B. C., the command given by Artaxerxes Longimanus until the Messiah the King comes.

Now the birth of Christ took place around 3 B. C., but He was not brought into the world as King.

What was the date that this took place?

Again, we call it Palm Sunday, and it was 173,880 days after the command by King Artaxerxes, which brings us to April 6, 32 A. D. as Jesus, the *MASHIACH NAGID* had come!

Now some like to say that Christians have made this date up but when you look at what the Scriptures tell us, what Jesus said about this date, you see that they are wrong.

Jesus held the nation of Israel responsible for not recognizing this date in which the Messiah was to come.

We read in Luke 19:41-44, **“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”**

Blindness had come upon the nation of Israel because they did not recognize what day it was. They were not aware that the Messiah had come and was with them and thus they were accountable for not knowing prophecy!

Let me say this. We too are accountable to know prophecy and be aware of the days we are living in.

As I look at all that is going on in the world, the threats that Russia is making against Israel for attacking Syria, the earthquakes happening all over the world, the pestilence, the wars and rumors of wars, the formation of a one world government and a one world religion, I believe we are in the pre-labor pains that Jesus spoke of in Matthew chapter 24, the Braxton Hicks contractions before the labor begins.

And the labor is getting close, but before it happens, the Bride or the Church will be taken home, we call it – ***THE RAPTURE!***

Now there is something else that I want to share with you and that is what Daniel 9:26 says, the first part of it. We are told, “**And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself . . .**”

Now something happens after the King has come and there is a break between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel, which is the church age, the days we are living in.

Now, it is after the 483 years that the Messiah was to be “**cut off.**”

It comes from the Hebrew word ***KARAT*** which means “***to kill, to destroy, or the execution of a criminal.***”

Literally it speaks of a person who is being punished with death by piercing! You see, Jesus was executed for a capital crime. By the Jewish leadership, the Sanhedrin, it was blasphemy. And for the Romans, it was for the insurrection He caused against the Roman Empire. Both of these capital crimes are punishable by death.

And notice what it says, “**But not for Himself.**”

What does that mean?

This is saying that He was not guilty of these crimes that were laid at His feet. He was innocent.

Listen to what Peter said, “**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.**” I Peter 3:18.

And as Daniel tells us, the Messiah was cut off without receiving His Kingdom.

That will come when Jesus comes again, at the end of that last seven-year period of time, the Tribulation Period and it is then He will set up His Kingdom! Praise the Lord for that day!

Keep in mind that Passover was a few days away and the city was growing with people to celebrate this feast.

Some of the people were from out of town. Some of the people there that day lived in Jerusalem. And some of the people who were there were the Jewish religious leaders.

So as the people saw all that was happening, they were excited. They shouted out *Hosanna* or *Save Now!*

They placed palm branches on the ground which was a symbol of Jewish nationalism since the time of the Maccabees, as well as honor as they were placed before a person, and victory.

What is going on here? The people saw this as a political rally as Jesus, in their minds, was going to free them from the Roman bondage they were under.

Jesus, on the other hand, as He fulfilled prophecy riding in on a donkey, a symbol of peace, came to set people free from their sin and rule and reign at this time on the thrones of their hearts.

Thus, when things didn't go like they thought they should, the people no longer cried, "*Save Now!*" but "*Crucify Him!*"

I think you can understand why Jesus wept as He looked down upon the city of Jerusalem! He didn't come at this time as a national Savior but a spiritual Savior, not to rule and reign from a throne at this time, but to rule and reign, as I have said, in the hearts of man!

And beginning here, on this day, Palm Sunday, Jesus is being inspected by the people who lived outside of Jerusalem, those who lived in the city and the Jewish religious leaders just as the sheep were being inspected for any spot or blemish. And He will be inspected by the Roman officials as well. In other words, it was – ***INSPECTION DAY!***

VERSE 16

Why couldn't the disciples of Jesus understand these spiritual truths at this time?

Because they are spiritually discerned!

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostles began to understand that the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of Jesus as the Holy Spirit opened their eyes to these truths!

That is Paul's point in I Corinthians 2:10-16 as he speaks of understanding the deep things of God. He wrote, "**But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ.**"

Think of it like this. You are reading a book and you are not understanding it. You can go to others, but they may not give you the right information.

So how can you understand this book that you are reading?

You can go to the author, and he knows what he was writing about, and he can tell you what it all means.

That, in a sense, is what we do. The Author is God, and it is the Spirit of God that opens up the Word of God to our hearts and lives. It is the Spirit of God that helps us to understand what God is saying.

It is interesting to me that when someone gets into a false teaching, I have not heard them say that God showed them this and then give me a Scripture. But they always go to a man, a teacher, some writing but not the Bible and thus, not the Spirit of God!

The Spirit of God knows all things and thus, what we don't know, and it is a lot, the Spirit of God will show us.

What many do today is they listen to the wisdom of man and that just brings about much confusion in their lives and in the lives that are hearing that garbage!

To truly understand the Bible, you need to be born again because it is the Spirit that is teaching us and if the Spirit of God is not in us, we are not going to receive.

Now let me also say this. If you are searching for God, the Spirit of God will reveal Himself to you so that you can come to saving faith in Jesus! Then we hear to grow!

Spurgeon put it like this. He wrote, ***“Man has a desire to preach new doctrine, to set up a new church, to be an original thinker, to judge, to consider – to do anything but obey.”***

Here's the thing. If you want to understand God, glorify Him in your obedience and He will teach you.

And what we see here is – ***SPIRITUAL REVELATION!***

VERSES 17-18

I tend to see this as a – ***SUPERFICIAL FOLLOWING*** of Jesus!

Why do I see it that way?

They had witnessed something supernatural, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. You have to be drawn to someone who could do that.

If that is where their faith was at, when things got tough, when they did not go the way that they wanted them to go or think they should go, they will turn against Jesus.

And we have talked about that already. The crowds worshiped Him and then called for His crucifixion.

You see, they were looking for freedom from their Roman bondage. Think about what the Jews were going through under Roman bondage. They lost their freedom and things were not easy.

So here comes Jesus and they saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead and were blown away. If He could do that, then He must be the One who was to come and rule and reign, He must be the Messiah and will deliver them from this bondage that Rome placed upon them.

The problem was that they needed more than physical deliverance, they needed spiritual deliverance. They were dead in their trespasses and sins.

And all the physical freedom that they might have, would be meaningless if they were going to spend an eternity apart from God!

But, because of all this persecution, being watched by the Romans all the time, they were not looking for a Messiah to save them from their sins but to free them from this Roman bondage that they were in!

It is as Bruce wrote, ***“One who could summon a dead man back to life would certainly be able to deliver the holy city from the yoke of Caesar.”***

Again, it is easy to look down upon the Jews for the way they behaved, for what they were doing.

But these lessons are not here for us to look down upon others, but to look inside and see where we are at.

When bad things happen to us. When things don't go the way we think that they should. We our life is a mess, and we just don't understand how God can do this to us. Is it then we turn away from God and get mad at Him for not doing what you think He should have done?

That is what these Jewish people were doing, and it is what we do.

Life is messy, things happen that we don't like but make no mistake about it, God is in control and everything we are going through He will use to help us to grow and to draw close to Him!

And think about this for a minute. When bad things happen, like 9/11, churches were filled with people again! But was that a true commitment to God?

I don't think so!

How can I be so sure?

Because in the weeks and months that followed church attendance went back down to where it was before that terrorist attack!

In other words, what was seen was superficial, they felt scared, hopeless, worried, and thus, they went to church where they could find that peace and comfort and yet, it never became part of their life for most of them.

Regarding these verses J. Vernon McGee wrote,

My favorite painting of the Crucifixion shows three empty crosses. The bodies of the crucified have been taken down from the crosses and lie in the tombs.

In the background is a little donkey eating on a palm frond.

What a message!

The discarded palm branch and the Cross are the tokens of His so - called triumphal entry. Where is the crowd that cried, “Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord”?

They may be the same crowd that on the next day shouted, “Crucify Him!” Now they are gone, and He is in the tomb. You see, He offered Himself to them publicly as their King, but He was rejected.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible, Vol. IV, p. 445

May we come to Jesus not for what we can get from Him, but because He is the King of kings and Lord of lords! He is Almighty God and deserves our worship!

Again, looking at these Jews, I don't believe this is speaking of saving faith here, but the following of Jesus continues to grow and out of that, we see the opposition from the Jewish religious leaders!

I have called these verses – ***FOOLISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS!***

VERSE 19

Look at how jealousy, their own misguided religious ideas lead them to a place where they wanted to kill Jesus.

I am always amazed at this. Jesus helped people, cared for them, healed them, delivered them from demon possession, fed them, protected them and the list goes on regarding all that Jesus did for the Jewish people.

Not only that, if this was not enough and it truly was not enough for these Jewish religious leaders. But here is the kicker you might say.

All that Jesus had done was in fulfillment with what the Old Testament prophets said regarding the Messiah. He fulfilled them all and yet, because of jealousy, because of trying to hold onto their position with Rome, they were going to reject the truth that was right there before them – ***FOOLISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS!***

Even this day was prophesized by Daniel the prophet as we have seen and they did not see it, they did not know what time it was on God’s prophetic timeclock.

And here’s the thing. Maybe they would have missed the exact date, but they would have known the timeframe of the coming Messiah.

All they had to do was put 2 + 2 together to get 4, you might say!

The miracles that Jesus did and now this day, as He rides through Jerusalem as Messiah the King, and they still did not see it, or they refused to see it.

Remember what Zechariah wrote 500 years before the coming of Christ. He wrote in Zechariah 9:9, **“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

And here comes Jesus down the Mount of Olives into the city of Jerusalem riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey and none of these Jewish religious leaders thought that maybe this is the One?

Listen to what Luke tells us of this day in Luke 19:28-38, **“When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, ‘Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you loosing it?’ thus you shall say to him, ‘Because the Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, ‘Why are you loosing the colt?’ And they said, ‘The Lord has need of him.’ Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Jesus arranges for His men to get this colt and it all goes according to plan, as He told them.

As Jesus gets on this colt, He begins to ride down the Mount of Olives into the city of Jerusalem, across the Brook Kidron and through the east gate of the city.

As He is coming down, we see that these multitudes are placing palm branches on the ground and they are crying out, **“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”**

Now placing palm branches on the ground was to honor the person who was carried over them. It spoke of victory; it spoke of success.

We see this in 1 Maccabees 13:51 as we are told, *“On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the year one hundred and seventy-one, the Jews entered the citadel with shouts of jubilation, waving of palm branches, the music of harps and cymbals and lyres, and the singing of hymns and canticles, because a great enemy of Israel had been destroyed.”* (This is also found in 2 Maccabees 10:7 and Revelation 7:9)

And so as these crowds are honoring Jesus they are also singing one of the Hallel Psalms which are Messianic in nature, Psalms 113-118.

Keep in mind that these Psalms are Psalms of praise unto the Lord.

Also, these six Psalms were sung during the three major feasts of Israel. They were sung at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

Specifically, here they are singing out of Psalm 118 verses 25 and 26.

And look closely at what the people were shouting, the words they were saying. The people were shouting **“Hosanna!”** or **“Save now!”**

And I did cover this but, *“Save them from what?”*

Not their sins but they wanted to be saved from this Roman bondage! They wanted to be saved economically! They wanted to be saved from the persecution! They were waiting for the Kingdom Age, and they thought it was here!

How do I know that? Because Mark tells us they were shouting, “**Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**” Mark 11:10. They missed the reason for the Messiah to come and thus, when that didn’t happen, in just a few days, they would be shouting for Jesus to be crucified!

The reason I bring this up is because as this is taking place the Jewish religious leaders are watching what is going on. And how do you think they will respond?

We don’t have to guess because Luke tells us in Luke 19:39, “**And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’**”

Understand that the crowds were worshiping Jesus, but these Jewish religious leaders were not. And, as Jesus said in John 8:44, they were doing as their father, the Devil does, try to destroy the worship of Jesus!

Please understand that Satan hates it when we worship God and those that don’t know Jesus can also be very hostile to our worship of God.

These religious leaders knew what the people were saying, that Jesus is the Messiah, and they wanted the people to stop and they wanted Jesus to step in and stop them.

But they did not stop, and Jesus was not going to stop them, they were singing out the truth of God’s Word and His praises, even though they too were missing the big picture!

And for these Jewish religious leaders, they say that “**... Look, the world has gone after Him!**” John 12:19.

This was not true at this point, we see that today, the whole world has been affected by Jesus. The problem here is that their own popularity, their own recognition was decreasing, and they needed to do something quick, before it gets out of control, more than it already had!

Listen to this perspective of the situation. We are told, *“As the crowd grew in size, and interest in the Savior mounted, the Pharisees were beside themselves. Nothing they could say or do had the slightest effect. With frenzied exaggeration, they cried out that the whole world had gone after Jesus. They did not realize that the interest of the crowd was but a passing thing, and that those who really were willing to worship Jesus as the Son of God were very few.”*

Like I have said, the Jews in general went after Jesus because of what they could get from Him, material things, physical things instead of the spiritual life He had for them. Thus, when things did not go their way, they rejected Him.

But there were those who were honestly – ***LOOKING FOR JESUS!***

VERSES 20-22

Here in John 12:20 we see that Jesus is going to be ministering to Gentiles. Keep in mind that He primarily came to offer salvation to the Jewish people.

In Matthew chapter 15, we see a woman from Canaan come to Jesus begging Him to help her daughter who was demon possessed. And remember the response He gave to her, **“But He answered and said, ‘I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”** Matthew 15:24.

And yes, He did help this woman as He was drawing out her faith, but His primary focus was the **“lost sheep of the house of Israel.”**

We also see this in Matthew chapter 10 as Jesus is sending out His men to minister to the lost, and He told them, **“... ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”** Matthew 10:5-6.

Now that is going to be changing as the house of Israel, the Jewish people, for the most part, had rejected Him and now He was going to send His men to the Gentiles to bring the Gospel message to them.

And please understand that this was not a second option for Jesus because the Jews rejected Him. This was something that even in the Old Testament we see God speaking of the Gentiles being saved.

Let me show you what I mean.

In Genesis 12:3 we are told, **“I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

The promise to Abraham, that through his seed, the nations of the world will be blessed, both Jew and Gentile, through the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

In Isaiah 9:1-2 we are told, **“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.”**

These Gentiles, the ones who walked in darkness, will come to the light, to Jesus!

In Isaiah 42:6 we are told, **“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles.”**

You see, the Jews were to be a light to the Gentiles, but their light went out and they refused to come to the Light, Jesus Christ. But for those Jews who did, and you can read in the book of Acts, they brought the light of Christ to the Gentiles!

We also see this in Isaiah 49:6, **“Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”**

Again, they were to be a light to the Gentiles!

And Paul goes back to the Old Testament to show that God has called not just the Jews, but the Gentiles as well as he wrote in Romans 9:24-26, **“even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As He says also in Hosea: ‘I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.’ ‘And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, “You are not My people,” There they shall be called sons of the living God.’”**

And Jesus even spoke of other sheep that He will bring into the fold back in John 10:16, as He said, **“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”**

So as the Jewish people, as a nation rejected Jesus, the Gospel of the Kingdom was first offered to them, Jesus now turns to the Gentiles with this gift of salvation extended to them! Again, not an afterthought, God had planned to save them from the beginning!

And here we see that there were **“certain Greeks”** who were there. And keep in mind that the Greeks were seekers of truth and these men had come to know the God of Israel, and thus, they were there for the Passover Feast.

And what a question they ask Philip, we long for questions like that, **“Sir, we want to see Jesus.”**

For the Jews, they wanted a **“sign”** but for these Greeks, they wanted to see Jesus!

Now why did they come to Philip in the first place?

Some suggest it was because he had a Greek name, we don't know for sure.

The question that is intriguing to me is why did Philip hesitate in taking them to Jesus?

I believe it was because He didn't understand that salvation was not only for the Jew but also for the Gentile. So he tells Andrew and they both go and tell Jesus!

Now Jesus is going to teach not just these Greeks who were seeking Him, but the crowds of people who had come to Jerusalem for this feast, those who lived in Jerusalem and the Jewish religious leaders. There were many people around Jesus who will hear Him teach them of what is going to happen and what will be born out of it.

Many of you are familiar with J. Vernon McGee, he pastored a church in Los Angeles at one time known as the ***“Church of the Open Door.”***

And on the back wall, a place only the speaker or pastor could see as he stood behind the pulpit, was a sign that read, ***“Sir, we would see Jesus.”*** (John 12:21)

I like that. As a pastor is teaching, he should be painting a picture of Jesus for all to see!

Now, J. Vernon McGee said that he would have loved to put up a sign behind the pulpit, a place only the congregation could see, that read, ***“Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”*** (Galatians 4:16)

I like that as well.

Yes, a pastor, a teacher is to make Jesus known so that they can see Jesus. And the congregation is to hear what is being taught and not be offended by the truth but seek direction from God as they receive the truth of God found in the Word of God.

Arthur W. Pink nails it when it gives to us this spiritual application. He wrote, *“They supplicated Philip, making known their wish, and asking if it were possible to have it granted; saying, ‘Sir, we would see Jesus,’ or more literally, ‘Jesus, we desire to see.’ At the very time the leaders of Israel sought to kill Him, the Greeks desired to see Him. This was the first voice from the outside world which gave a hint of the awakening consciousness that Jesus was about to be the Savior of the Gentiles as well as the Jews.”*

I pray that you have seen this morning, just as the Scriptures foretold, that the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ came on the exact day as Messiah the King, would be rejected and put to death for the sins of the world, rising from the dead on the third day – ***THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!***

And the truths of God found in the Word of God are spiritually discerned or understood. We need the Spirit of God to bring a person to Jesus and then we need the Spirit of God to teach us the things of God.

And may our relationship with Jesus be strong, not superficial or only when we are in need, because the reality is, we need Him every day even if we don’t see it!

Let us not negate the reality of God and what He has done for us as the Jewish religious leaders had done. The truth was before them, and they rejected the truth and died in their sins.

May we be looking for Jesus because the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to put down man’s rebellion against Him and to set up His Kingdom of this earth!