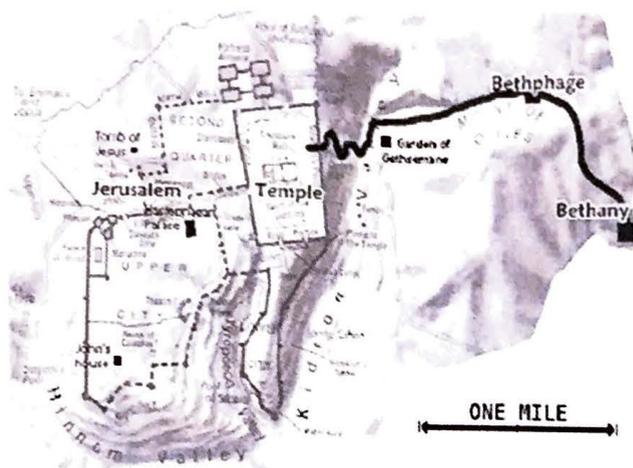


FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

The Danger of Crowd Theology

John 12:9-19



Introduction: Was this really Jesus' "triumphal" entry?

Also, keep alert for the evidence showing that the Scriptures come from a supernatural source and that they reflect honest, eye-witness testimony.

1. The Historical Context, John 12:9-12.

Friday, March 28, A.D. 33 -- Jesus left Jericho for Bethany.

Saturday, the banquet at Simon the Leper's house in Bethany.

Sunday, March 29 -- Jesus stayed in Bethany, many visitors.

The chief priests decide to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus.

2. A Key Day in the Schedule of Messianic Prophecy

Monday, March 30, 33 A.D.

538 B.C. the Prophet Daniel received the prophecy for the precise date of Israel's Redeemer to arrive in Jerusalem, Daniel 9:25-26.

Messiah would come to Jerusalem 483 years after a decree was issued for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Following that arrival, he would be cut off.

Prophecy: 69×7 "weeks" (360 day years) = 173,880 days.

Decree date: March 5, 444BC + 173,880 days = March 30, A.D. =

the date Jesus entered Jerusalem with the crowd proclaiming Him King.

2. A Key Day in the Schedule of Passover Week, Exodus 12:3-6.

The day for the setting aside of all lambs to be used for Passover.

As Jesus was making His way into Jerusalem with the multitude, they would have been surrounded by droves of lambs being taken into the city to be secured for Passover sacrifices. Surely Jesus saw this significant symbolism of his approaching sacrifice.

3. A Day for seismic Change in Jesus' Ministry Strategy, John 12:12-19

A. The Expectation of the Crowd, Psalm 118:24-26, Luke 19:38.

The crowd went out to welcome Jesus as the Messianic King.

The welcoming throng openly proclaiming Jesus as Messiah and King.

They expected the establishment of a new era of Israel's international supremacy.

B. The Expectation of the Crowd Contradicted, the Disciples Confounded, John 12:14-16; Luke 19:29-40.

In contradiction to the approaching enthusiastic crowd, Jesus took steps to identify Himself as the humble Messiah predicted in Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9-10.

Following Zechariah's portrait of the Messiah's humble coming, Jesus chose to ride into the capitol on a symbol of peace and humility.

John's editorial comment—the disciples did not understand--indicates his narrative was authentic: verse 16

The crowd believed that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, verses 17-18.

C. Jesus' Change in Ministry Strategy

No longer maintaining a "low profile".

Now openly accepting acclaim as Messiah and King of Israel. Why?

On this day, the time table was locked in prophecy.

Jesus allowed the people to recognize Him openly because it was now time for His jealous enemies to take and kill Him.

Symbolically He was Israel's supreme Passover Lamb.

Prophetically, He was Israel's humble redeemer-King.

Significance of Jesus' return to Jerusalem for us:

The danger of evaluating truth and virtue by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd giving approval. In spiritual matters, crowds usually do not know what they are doing. Historically, the authentic people of God have been small in number.

As the people of God, we should not wait to become an impressive crowd before we speak up for truth. Righteous influence does not come from crowds, it comes from small clusters of consecrated people and from consecrated individuals.

Because of His amazing love and grace toward you, can you sacrifice a little to exalt him in your circles of influence?