

1 ☐ “The King Is Coming!”

[Answering Questions About Palm Sunday]
(Luke 19:28-44)

2 ☐ **Question #1:** Why did Jesus suddenly change from a covert [i.e. “sheltered,” almost “hidden”] behavior to such an ‘open’ and ‘public’ display of Himself?

- Consider Jesus’ general policy and behavior prior to this particular event:

— [As a rule, Jesus did not court public attention. Matthew (12:19) quoted Isaiah the prophet, who foretold the coming Messiah as one who would “... not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.” - Isa. 42:1-4 - i.e. He would not attract public attention to Himself]

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- John 7:1-5
- Matt. 9:30 - *When Jesus healed two blind men, “... Jesus warned them sternly, ‘See that no one knows about this.’”*
- Matt. 16:20 - *After Peter had confessed Jesus as ‘the Christ and the Son of the living God,’ Jesus “... warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.”*

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- Matt. 17:9 - *As Jesus was coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, He said to them: “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”*
- Mark 1:43 *When Jesus healed a man of leprosy, we reads: “Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ‘See that you don’t tell this to anyone. ...’”*
- Mark 3:11-12 *As Jesus went about healing people and casting out demons, we read: “Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, ‘You are the Son of God.’ - But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.”*

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- Mark 5:43 - *When messengers came to Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, and told him his daughter was dead, and when Jesus raised her up, ... “He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this ...”*
- Mark 7:36 - *Jesus healed a man who was deaf and who could hardly speak. The, “...Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.”*

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- The explanation of why this was Jesus’ policy and why His policy suddenly changed on that first Palm Sunday has to do with God’s timing in the unfolding of His redemptive plan in Christ.
- John 2:4 - *When Jesus was asked by His mother to help at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus replied, “ ‘ Dear woman, why do you involve me ... My time has not yet come.’”*

- John 7:6 Here is the reason Jesus gave His brothers when He refused [at first] to go to the Feast in Jerusalem [He later went, but secretly]

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- Matt. 8:29 - Here we have another hint of what this means. - Jesus encountered two men who were demon-possessed. Here is the account of how the demons in these men shouted out to Jesus:
- “ ‘What do you want with us, Son of God?’ they shouted. ‘Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?’”
- In other words, God had ‘a plan’ for Jesus! There is ‘a planned, chronological, order of events’ that Jesus must accomplish, and ‘a set time’ in which they were to occur, ... and Jesus was aware of this!

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- John 17:4-5 “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”
- Luke 9:51 “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”
- cf. Matt. 16:21-23 “From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

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- It also had to do with the fact that Jesus’ sacrificial death for sinners was the cornerstone and crowning event of His ministry on earth; it therefore needed to be highlighted!:
- The time had come when Christ would die for the sins of the world!
 - _ The true Passover Lamb was now to be slain! [cf. John 1:29]
 - _ The true blood of atonement would now be shed once and for all [Heb. 10:12 & 9:12].
 - _ The true way into the holiest was now to be opened by the true High Priest of all mankind [Hebrew 9:7-11 & 24].

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- It was time for many prophecies to be fulfilled concerning the coming Messiah.
 - _ Daniel 9:26 - Daniel’s prophecy, that Messiah should be “cut off.”
 - _ Isaiah 53 - The suffering Servant!

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- God’s wisdom ordained events in such a way that any denial of Christ’s death would be futile and

foolish against the overwhelming, public, proofs!

- _ He entered the city publicly!
- _ He was brought before the High Priests and Pilate publicly!
- _ Pilate made an appeal to release Christ to the crowds publicly!
- _ He was led to Calvary openly and publicly through the streets of Jerusalem!
- _ He was crucified publicly, lifted up on a cross on a hill for all to see openly!

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Question #2:

**Why this extraordinary and unusual attention from such a vast multitude?
What is the significance of this?**

- Scripture indicates that this event attracted the attention of the entire city of Jerusalem!
 - _ Matt. 21:10-11 *"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'"*
 - _ John 12:19 *"... the Pharisees said to one another, 'See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him.'"*

13

- But what accounted for such an enormous public response to this "Prophet from Galilee"?

- _ John 12:17-18 gives one explanation
- _ J. C. Ryle saw another possible explanation:
 - _ "It is impossible not to see in the history before us that our Lord had a mysterious influence over the minds and wills of all around him, whenever He thought fit to use it. Nothing else can account for the effect which His approach to Jerusalem had on the multitudes which accompanied Him. They seem to have been carried forward by a secret constraining power, which they were obliged to obey, in spite of the disapproval of the leaders of the nation. In short, just as our Lord was able to make winds, and waves, and diseases, and devils obey Him, so was He able, when it pleased Him, to turn the minds of men according to His will."

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- Luke 4:28-30 - When the people in Nazareth were furious with Jesus we are told they *"...drove him out of town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ..."*
- However, verse 30 says: *"But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way."*
- John 8:58 - On another occasion, when Jesus was in Jerusalem teaching in the Temple. He made an amazing claim. He said to the Pharisees: *"I tell you the truth, ... before Abraham was born, I am."*
- Verse 59 says: *"At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."*

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- John 18:6 says concerning the soldiers who came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“When Jesus said, ‘I am he,’ they drew back and fell to the ground.”*

- Habakkuk 3:4 has a phrase which describes the entire period of the incarnation: the *“hiding of his power.”*

16 But the significance of this public interest ‘from God’s perspective,’ was that it would be clearly evident to all that Christ’s sufferings were voluntary!

17 Question #3:
What is the significance of the prophecy noted in the narrative?

- cf. Matt. 21:4-5 *“This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:*

— Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” - (From Zech. 9:9)

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- The important point we need to note here is that this prophecy was literally fulfilled! -
- This suggests that passages which foretell the second coming of Christ ought to be understood literally!

*— Acts 1:9-11
— Matt. 24:28-31
— Luke 21:25-27
— I Thess. 4:16-18*

19 Question # 4:
What is the overall spiritual significance of Palm Sunday for today?

- “The King is coming!”
- This event ‘mirrors,’ or in a sense ‘foreshadows,’ the future coming of Christ as *“King of kings and Lord of lords!”*
- In a sense He continues to come each time an individual believes on Him and is converted, through the agency of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit!
- It represents the spread of Christ’s kingdom throughout the present age.
[cf. Col. 1:13 & Phil. 3:20!!!]

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- The Christian is enabled to:

— ‘see’ the kingdom [John 3:3]; and,

— share in something of Christ’s humiliation and His suffering during this present life, prior to His second coming [Phil. 3:10]!

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- Furthermore, all of this explains why Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* [Matt. 6:10]. - When Christians pray this prayer, they are asking for:

__ The restoration of the rightful and just rule of the God of heaven in this world;

__ That all things be in subjection to Him [I Cor. 15:24-28];

__ That every tongue would confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father [Phil. 2:5-11]!

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- One more important fact about the people in the crowd on that first Palm Sunday helps us understand the significance of this event:

__ *The people in the crowd who shouted: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord,”* were typical of the human race in general when it comes to their attitude toward God: fickle, double-minded, unstable, and erratic!