

**GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**  
**JOHN 12:12-19; (Cf. MATTHEW 21:1-11)**

**Introduction**

Last time we saw in the first 11 verses of John 12 how that six days before the **PASSOVER**, **JESUS** and **HIS DISCIPLES** returned to **BETHANY** where **HE** had previously raised **LAZARUS** from the dead. They attended a supper made in **JESUS'** honor at the house of one called **SIMON THE LEPER** whom **JESUS** had also healed.

We saw that **JESUS**, **HIS DISCIPLES**, **LAZARUS**, and **SIMON THE LEPER** were at the table, **MARTHA** served, and **MARY OF BETHANY** anointed the **LORD JESUS CHRIST'S** feet with a pound of spikenard that was worth about the same amount as the average working wage for a year!

**JUDAS ISCARIOT** protested that the ointment was not sold and given to the poor but **JESUS** took up for **MARY** by rebuking **JUDAS!**

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The story picks up from that point on the **next day** according to **John 12:12**. Let's read our text in **Verses 12-19** here and in **Matthew 21:1-11**

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**I. WE SEE THE COMMOTION OF THE CROWD! (Vs 12)**

Trouble had been brewing as the **PHARISEES** put out an **APB** or a **BOLO** on **JESUS!** The **PHARISEES** had counseled together to put **JESUS** to death and had given a commandment that anyone who knew where **JESUS** was to come forward and disclose it to them!

Additionally, the **PHARISEES** had **LAZARUS** on their hit list because people were believing on **JESUS** at an alarming rate after the **LORD** had raised **LAZARUS** from the dead!

**Verse 12** indicates that the crowds were gathering in **JERUSALEM** to celebrate the **PASSOVER** feast.

There was a rustle among the crowd assembling in **JERUSALEM** because word got out about **JESUS** raising **LAZARUS** from the dead and now there was talk that **JESUS** was on **HIS** way to **JERUSALEM** for **PASSOVER!** People were excited!

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**II. WE SEE THE CRY OF THE CROWD! (Vs 13)**

**Verse 13** indicates that as **JESUS** came into the city, folks went forth to meet **HIM** with branches of palm trees and they became emotionally caught up in the moment and cried out, "**Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.**"

The **Matthew 21:8-9** account of this event says "8 *And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.* 9 *And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.*"

Understand that "**Hosanna**" was a term with which every Jew was familiar, since it came from the group of **Psalms** known as the **Hallel (Psalms 113-18)**. (as in *Hallelujah?*) The **Hallel** was sung each morning by the Temple choir during the three major Jewish festivals.

"**Hosanna**" is a term of acclamation and is transliterated from a Hebrew word that literally means, "**Save, we pray!**" **It is a cry for help!**

**Psalm 118:25-26**—"25 **Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.** 26 **Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: We have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.**"

The people were crying "**Save, we pray!**" **What were they looking for and asking for? They were looking for JESUS to be a political savior...one who would liberate them from the Roman rule!** But that is **NOT** why the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** came the first time! **Luke 19:10**- "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"

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**WE SEE THE CRY OF THE CROWD**

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**III. WE SEE CHRIST AND THE CROWD! (Vs 13-15)**

This mob wanted what it wanted! Their desire was to convince **JESUS** that **HE** was the **MAN** to give them what they wanted!

**JESUS had come to save HIS people, but it would NOT be through the political liberation from Roman rule that the crowd hoped for and expected!**

If man's greatest problem was government, **GOD** would have sent a politician! But that was not man's greatest problem!

Man's greatest problem is sin and the need for forgiveness from sin, so **GOD** sent **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST** to be the **SAVIOR** by dying for man's sin on the **CROSS OF CALVARY!**

People today are looking for something similar to what the **JEWS** were looking for. Governments of all kind all over the world have their problems because of the sin problem!

Even in our own government we know there is corruption and wrongdoing and self-seeking almost everywhere we look!  
(Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent, or whatever party!)

People are tired of it and they want a ruler who will solve all of their perceived problems. And very soon, the **ANTICHRIST** will come to power during the **TRIBULATION PERIOD** presenting himself as the answer to man's problem! The world will be deceived and embrace him for a time, but even he will not be what he presents himself to be!

At the end of the **TRIBULATION PERIOD**, **JESUS CHRIST** will come again the second time to destroy **ANTICHRIST** and to rule and reign on this earth for a literal 1000-year period!

But that is in the future! *Matthew 23:37-39*

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Here, **JESUS** officially presented Himself for what **HE** was and is—the **MESSIAH**, the very **SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOUR!**

The crowd wanted a **CONQUEROR** on a **STALLION** with a **SWORD!** That will come one day at the end of the **TRIBULATION PERIOD!** (*Revelation 19:11-16*)

But here they got **MESSIAH** the **SAVIOUR** on an **ASS'S COLT** with **HUMILITY!**

**By presenting HIMSELF this way, HE actually set in motion the chain of events that would quickly lead to HIS death at the exact time foreordained by God!**

In the past, the **LORD** had refused to be hailed as the king and military conqueror that the people were sure the **MESSIAH** would be. In fact, **JESUS** had previously departed from a crowd that he perceived was seeking to make **HIM** king. (*John 6:14-15*)

But this time **HE** accepted their acclamation, which sent them into a frenzy of excitement. I'm sure they thought that finally **HE** was accepting the role they wanted **HIM** to take—that of a political and military deliverer! But **JESUS** accepted their praise on **HIS** terms!

Now, a few days later, none of this crowd came to **JESUS'** defense when **HE** was wrongfully arrested, tried, and sentenced to death!

In fact, many of these same voices crying "*Hosanna!*" or "*Save, we pray!*" were the voices just a few days later that shouted for the release of **BARABBAS** instead of **CHRIST** and shouted "*Crucify Him, Crucify Him!*" with regard to what should be done with **CHRIST!**

**People are fickle that way when they don't get what they want!** But it was all in the will of **GOD!** Because the first time, **JESUS CHRIST** came to die for sin!

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**IV. WE SEE CHRIST'S FULFILMENT OF SCRIPTURE!**

*(Vs 14-16, Cf. Zechariah 9:9)*

From **HIS** conception and birth and all through **HIS** life and ministry, **JESUS** had been fulfilling **SCRIPTURE** after **SCRIPTURE**!

Hundreds of **OLD TESTAMENT** prophecies find their fulfilment in the **FIRST COMING** of **JESUS CHRIST** testifying that **JESUS** both **was** and **is** **WHO HE** said **HE IS**! And anyone who will take the time to study it out will find that to be the case!

**But even JESUS DISCIPLES didn't understand these things until after JESUS was glorified and the HOLY SPIRIT was given!**  
*(Vs 16)*

**Before JESUS went to the Cross, HE promised to send HIS HOLY SPIRIT to dwell in HIS DISCIPLES and guide them in truth:**

*John 16:12-13—“12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*

**And even after HIS Resurrection but before the descent of the HOLY SPIRIT the DISCIPLES showed a lack of understanding:**

*Acts 1:6—“ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”*

**After the day of PENTECOST when the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT came on them, JESUS' words and actions took on new meaning and made more sense. That's when the DISCIPLES saw the truth of the things JESUS had taught them!**

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**V. WE SEE CHRIST'S POWER WITNESSED BY OTHERS!**

*(Vs 17-19)*

What happened to **LAZARUS** continued to be a testimony to **WHO JESUS WAS** and **IS**! These witnesses mentioned in *Vs 17* continued to bare record of it!

*Vs 18* points to this being what drew the crowd to **JESUS** that day! And listen, **it continues to bare record of JESUS to this day!** **CHRIST'S** raising **LAZARUS** from the dead is still a powerful witness!

*Vs 19* indicates the **PHARISEES** had **NOTHING** to counter with!

But in just a few days from this point, **JESUS** was going to do something really special! And it was something that **HE** has already said was coming and even the **PHARISEES** knew what **HE** said! *John 10:18 – “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...”*

Now when the **PHARISEES** arrested, tried, and crucified **JESUS** they thought that **THEY** had taken **HIS** life! And, according to Peter's preaching on the day of **PENTECOST** there was culpability on their part! But they could have done **NOTHING** without the **LORD** allowing them to! And even then **JESUS** held the power of the exact moment that **HE** gave up the ghost!

But the part that troubled the **PHARISEES** was that part about taking back up **HIS** life again!

*Matthew 27:62-64—“62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.”*

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**Conclusion**

What is better than raising someone else up from the grave that has been dead and in the grave four days? I mean how are you going to top that?

Well, how about raising yourself up from the dead after enduring the most torturous death that mankind can put on you and having your life's blood drained from you!

That is what **JESUS** did...**HE** endured the Cross to pay the price for our sins so that we could have forgiveness! And then three days after they sealed **HIM** in a tomb, **HE** took back up **HIS** life again just as **HE** said **HE** would do!

The question is this morning...Have you believed the Testimony of the **WORD OF GOD** regarding **WHO JESUS** was and **WHAT JESUS** did?

**HAVE YOU BELIEVED THE GOSPEL?** If not, why not? There is ample proof that what the **WORD OF GOD** says is true! Repent and Believe the **GOSPEL** today!

If you have believed the **GOSPEL**, are you living in the power of **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION**? When we believe the **GOSPEL** we are identified in **CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION!**  
*(Romans 6)*

Live in the reality of **WHO YOU NOW ARE IN CHRIST!**  
*Galatians 2:20—"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*