

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-44

### Opening

- Gathering: What fanfare would Jesus receive today if He rode into our town?
- Today's Focus: Jesus no longer concealed His Messiahship and clearly revealed it as He entered Jerusalem.
- Key Verses: *See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Matthew 21:5*

*They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" John 12:13*

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

A Well Publicized Miracle (*John 11*)

- What happened outside Jerusalem 3-4 months before Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem? = Many believed  
John 11:1, 17-19, 43-45 = Jesus raised Lazarus from dead in Bethany, <2 miles from Jerusalem
- How did this miracle impact the disbelieving Jewish leaders in nearby Jerusalem?  
John 11:46-48, 53 = Decided to kill Jesus to keep the Romans from getting upset with them
- Did Jesus return to Galilee – where He had spent the bulk of His ministry to that time?  
John 11:54 = No, He went to a village north of Jerusalem near the desert – Ephraim

O' Little Town of Jerusalem (*John 11:55-57*)

- What was expected of every adult male Jew who lived within 20 miles of Jerusalem?  
John 11:55 = To go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover
- Did only Jews living nearby go to Jerusalem for Passover (and Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles)?  
Acts 2:1, 5, 9-11a = No, Jews came from every corner of the world

- Note: Thirty years later, the Romans counted 256,000 lambs sacrificed for Passover  
Jewish regulations called for at least 10 people per lamb  
There were therefore at least 2.5 million Jews in Jerusalem during the Passover  
Jerusalem's normal population was around 50,000  
The city of Jerusalem was roughly the size of Nassau Bay proper (0.5-1.0 square miles)  
With this many people packed into such a small area, would Jesus be able to go but remain hidden?  
John 11:56-57 = No, everyone was looking for Him

On the Road Again (*Luke 18:31-19:10*)

- Would Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover or would He find it too risky?  
Luke 18:31-34 = He would go – the risk was real and key to His purpose
- How did Jesus get an opportunity to build people's faith on His way to Jerusalem?  
Luke 18:35, 41-43 = He healed blind Bartimaeus in Jericho – many saw and praised God
- How else did Jesus reveal His purpose in Jericho? = He *came to seek and to save what was lost*  
Luke 19:1-2, 5, 7, 9-10 = He reached out to Zacchaeus the tax collector

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### Another Stop (*John 12:1-11*)

After spending time with Zacchaeus, did Jesus then head straight to Jerusalem?

John 12:1-2 = No, He stopped in Bethany and stayed with His friends (M, M & L)

Was this dinner held at Mary, Martha and Lazarus' house? = Reclining was normal for banquet eating

Mark 14:3 = No, it was at Simon the Leper's house – apparently friends since Martha served

What happened after dinner? = Matthew and Mark say she poured it on His head - head to toe(?)

John 12:3 = Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume; women didn't let hair down in public

Who had a problem with Mary's act of worship?

John 12:4-6 = Judas, the group's treasurer – perfume was worth a year's wages

How did Jesus respond to Mary's wastefulness?

Mark 14:6-9 = He scolded the disciples for not recognizing the significance of Mary's act

How did Judas react to this reprimand?

Mark 14:10-11 = Turned on Jesus and *went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them*

How seriously did the chief priests want to get rid of Jesus?

John 12:9-11 = They also wanted to kill Lazarus because he drew people to Jesus

Note: The dinner and story in John 12:2-8 likely took place the following Tuesday or Wednesday night

### Bethphage Limo Service (*Matthew 21:1-5*) = Show Bethany, Bethphage and Jerusalem on a map

What did Jesus do the day after arriving in Bethany? = Bethany means *house of dates*

John 12:12 = He headed for Jerusalem

What did Jesus do as they approached the town of Bethphage? = Bethphage means *house of figs*

Matthew 21:1-3 = He sent two disciples into Bethphage to get a donkey and its colt

Why would Jesus want a donkey colt to ride into Jerusalem?

Matthew 21:4-5 = Fulfilled Messianic prophesy of Zechariah 9:9

### Riding a Donkey's Colt (*Luke 19:28-31*)

Why was it inappropriate for Jesus to ride in on a horse?

Revelation 6:2 = The horse was the mount of war

What was the meaning of a king riding a donkey?

Judges 10:3-4 (2 Samuel 19:26; 1 Kings 1:33) = It was a sign that he came in peace

Besides fulfilling Zechariah 9:9, what was the significance of using the colt instead of the adult donkey?

Luke 19:30 = It had never been ridden

Why was this significant?

1 Samuel 6:7-8 (Deut. 21:1-9) = Never-yoked animals were suitable for sacred purposes

Did the disciples recognize the significance of what Jesus was doing?

John 12:14-16 = Not until after Jesus had risen and the Spirit explained everything to them

### Finding the Donkey's Colt (*Luke 19:32-34*)

How long would it take the disciples to find the donkey and the colt?

Mark 11:2 = As soon as they entered the village

Were they able to find the colt easily?

Mark 11:4 = Yes, it was *in the street, tied at a doorway*

Did anyone see the disciples take the colt?

Luke 19:32-34 = Yes, the owners did and asked what they were doing

Did the owners allow them to take the colt?

Mark 11:5-6 = Yes, just as Jesus had said and had prepared

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### Jesus is Coming (*John 12:17-19*)

What did the people traveling with Jesus do while waiting for the colt?

John 12:17 = They told others on the road and in Jerusalem that Jesus was coming

What did people do when they heard that Jesus was coming?

John 12:18 = Many went out to meet Him

Wasn't there danger that the religious leaders would hear about Jesus coming and have Him arrested?

John 12:19 (Luke 19:39) = Yes, some Pharisees also came out

Why didn't the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus at this time?

Matthew 21:46 = ... *afraid of the crowd because the people held that He was a prophet*

### Spreading Cloaks (*Luke 19:35-36*)

Wouldn't it be uncomfortable for a king to ride on the rough back of a donkey?

Luke 19:35 = Yes, but the disciples made a saddle for Jesus out of their cloaks

How did the crowd follow the disciples' lead?

Luke 19:36 = They threw their cloaks on the road before Jesus

What were they saying about Jesus when they did this?

2 Kings 9:13 = They recognized Jesus as king

### Spreading Branches (*John 12:13*)

What did people do if they didn't have a cloak to spread before Jesus?

Matthew 21:8 = They cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road

How could they find enough branches to cut along the road-side? Was this a road-side deforestation?

Mark 11:8 = They also went out into the fields and cut branches

The closest palm branches were in Jericho. Why do we call this Palm Sunday?

John 12:13 = They also spread palm branches – besides other branches

Where would they get the palm branches?

Psalms 118:27 = People were to bring palm branches with them to Passover

What event would the Jews remember through this scene?

2 Maccabees 10:7 = Jews waved palm branches when Maccabeus took & purified the temple

### Hosanna (*Luke 19:37-38*)

What did the people do as Jesus got closer to Jerusalem?

Luke 19:37 = They *began to praise God in loud voices*

Was Jesus at the front or the back of this procession?

Matthew 21:9 = In the middle – crowds ahead and following Him

What did the crowd shout?

Mark 11:9 = Hosanna – means *Lord, save us*

Where did they get these words?

Psalms 118:25-26 = Part of the Hallel (Psalms 113-118) – Hallel was regularly sung at Passover

Were they just singing Passover songs of praise or were they directing this to Jesus?

Mark 11:10 = They recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah-King

Besides the Lazarus miracle, why might the people see Jesus as the Messiah-King?

Luke 19:11 = *The people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once*

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### Noisy Stones (*Luke 19:39-40*)

Did everyone in the crowd get into the celebration of Jesus' entry as Messiah-King?

Luke 19:39 = The Pharisees in the crowd tried to stop the blaspheming

How did Jesus respond?

Luke 19:40 = Nothing can stop God from being praised when He comes

### Concern for Jerusalem (*Luke 19:41-44*)

Did Jesus bask in this praise-filled attention He was being given?

Luke 19:41 = No, He saw Jerusalem from the road and cried for it

Why did Jesus cry for Jerusalem?

Luke 19:42 = He realized that the people wouldn't turn to the peace that He was offering

What would happen as a result?

Luke 19:43-44 = Jerusalem would be besieged and violently destroyed

How did He repeat this concern for others when the attention was again focused on Him?

Luke 23:27-31 = He had concern for the future of Jerusalem's people while on road to cross

Note: Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD exactly as Jesus described

### He Has Arrived (*Mark 11:11-19*)

What happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem?

Matthew 21:10-11 = People asked about the commotion and were told about Jesus

What did Jesus do in Jerusalem?

Mark 11:11 = He went to the temple, looked around and returned to Bethany for the night

What did Jesus do the next day (Monday)? = Next week's lesson

Mark 11:12-19 = Returned to Jerusalem and cleansed the temple

### Closing Prayer

## Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What have you sacrificially given to God purely out of worship?  
(*John 11:1-8; Isaiah 43:23-24; Mark 10:28-30; Luke 21:1-4; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12*)
2. How have you reacted when you have heard of the generosity of others?  
(*Mark 14:3-11; Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Hebrews 13:7*)
3. How would Jesus be received if He rode into your town today?  
(*Matthew 21:8-11; Luke 4:16, 28-29; 9:52-56; 10:5-16; John 12:12-13; Acts 11:13*)
4. How would you react if you heard that Jesus was coming into your town today?  
(*Mark 11:8-9; Luke 9:57-62; 19:37-39; 23:8-11; Matthew 13:54-58; Acts 17:11*)
5. If you saw Jesus coming into your town, would you go tell others so they could come and see Him?  
If so, who have you told about Jesus who came into our world so they could come and see Him?  
(*Mark 11:8-9; Luke 19:39-40; John 1:29-37, 41-46; 4:28-30, 39-42; 12:17-19; Acts 17:22-23*)