

**“Jesus—the Ultimate King”
July 20, 2014**

Mark 11:1-11

CORE: Jesus is a King—unlike any ruler the world will ever know. How He entered Jerusalem in His final days (leading to the Cross) reveals His heart.

BACKGROUND INFO-

1. **The Feasts of Israel-** Celebration of what God had done, was doing & is going to fulfill.
 - a. **The Spring Feasts (April)**
 - i. **PASSOVER-** Salvation through a spotless Lamb
 - ii. **UNLEAVENED BREAD-** Holy walk with the LORD (NOTE: Matzah was striped & pierced; w/o leaven- sinless)
 - iii. **FIRST FRUITS-** New life (i.e., resurrection)
 - iv. **PENTECOST (50 days later)-** Harvest & the outpouring of spring rains.
 - b. **The Fall Feasts (September)**
 - i. **TRUMPETS-** Call to worship (*summoned from the fields*); the outpouring of the fall rains.
 - ii. **ATONEMENT-** (Yom Kippur) Confession, repentance & drawing near (*i.e., “at-one-ment”*)
 - iii. **TABERNACLES-** Celebrating His abiding, sheltering presence with them

The rejoicing & waving of palm branches was a joyful part of the Feast of Tabernacles—a Fall Feast (SEE Leviticus 23:40). Why were they doing this in the Spring during the Feast of Passover?

2. **Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, made a change of plans.**
 - “Fearing rebellion in Galilee, Pilate declared in January of **AD 31** that the **Fall Feasts** would **not** be celebrated in Jerusalem or in all of Galilee.”
 - “To counter this infringement on Jewish traditions, the **Sadducees** in Jerusalem decided to **incorporate the 3 Fall Feasts into the Feast of Passover.**”
 - “As **Jesus** and His disciples entered Jerusalem, the people were observing the **first day** of the Feast of **Tabernacles.**”
 - “The ‘**Great Hosanna**’ had become a **mournful cry for the Messiah.** The chief priests would distribute palm branches at the Pool of Siloam. They would proceed, loudly lamenting, crying & begging for the Messiah to come and save them.” (From *The Search: a historian’s search for the Historical Jesus* by Dr. Ron Charles)

- The **exuberant spontaneous celebration** that erupted around Jesus—stood in direct **contrast** to the mournful one.

3. **Jesus rode on the colt of a donkey.**

- In Eastern culture, donkeys were ridden by people of **the highest rank** (i.e., Abraham was an exceptionally wealthy leader; Jair & Abdon (both ruling judges in Israel—**Judges 3 & 12**) rode donkeys. Their sons and those ruling with them also rode donkeys).
- When a city was conquered, the victorious king would ride a horse if he was coming to judge & destroy a city. He rode a **donkey** when he was **confident** in His victory and he was coming to bring **peace (SEE Zechariah 9:9-10)**. Zechariah’s reference to **“humble”** is not about the donkey, but about the heart of the One riding it!
- **Jesus is fully confident in who He is.** Travelling from Jericho to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through the steep terrain of the wilderness where He had been tested 40 days—as the enemy attempted to strip Him of His identity.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS:

1. **What may look like “chaos” can actually be fulfillment.**

- Pilate & the Sadducees unknowingly worked together to combine the Spring & Fall Feasts—just as Jesus, THE fulfillment of all the Feasts, entered Jerusalem—on His way to the ultimate fulfillment on the Cross!
- Just like the census that moved Mary & Joseph to Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**)
- **Joel 2:23** prophesied that in Jesus—the **spring & fall rains would come together!**

2. **We can be looking for Jesus to appear to us one way—while He is revealing Himself to us in another way!**

- There can be 2 ways to say, **“Hosanna!” (Despairing or declaring)**
- Be open to Him revealing Himself in a **“different form” (Mark 16:12) (i.e., Mary at the empty tomb—seeking the Living among the dead?)**

3. **There is a BIG difference between lauding Jesus as King—and letting Him BE King.**

- **“Hosanna” can mean “save us now” (i.e., fulfill my agenda)**
- Do it my way or fulfill it Your way?
- **“Throwing down their coats”** was a sign of submission.