

Luke 19:28-38

Introduction: A little boy was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, “Why do you have that palm branch, dad?” “You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved Palm Branches to honor him, so we got Palm Branches today.” The little boy replied, “Aw Shucks The one Sunday I miss is the Sunday that Jesus shows up.” The crowd was the same way on what we call Palm Sunday. They were expecting a militant Messiah to save Israel from the Romans, but what they got was a meek Messiah who came to save them from their sins.

Why Jesus Rode a Donkey:

- ✠ **To fulfill prophecy.** Jesus was showing the Jewish audience that had followed Him as well as come out from Jerusalem to meet Him who He was. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” The prophecy that Jesus fulfilled here is found in Zechariah 9:9 which says, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” Many people ask, what is the point of prophecy? There is a two-fold purpose to it. First it is to prove God’s Word true. Second it is to strengthen our faith. Notice in our passage that Jesus told the two disciples that they would go into a town and there they would find a colt tied up. Notice what Luke 19:32 says, “And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.” Also Jesus told them that they would encounter the owners of the donkey and colt and they would ask what they were doing by untying them and all they had to say was “The Lord hath need of him.” That is exactly what happened in verse 34. Can you imagine someone telling you how something is going to happen before it happens? If you had this happen, would you trust the person who told you what was going to happen a little more?
- ✠ **To show He was King.** Many people have the mistaken mindset that people in those days rode horses, donkeys, and camels everywhere. The truth of the matter is they didn’t ride animals frequently, they walked everywhere they went.

Those who rode animals were generally either military officers or royalty. This was something that wasn't lost on the crowd notice what they say in verse 38, "Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." The majority of that verse is a quote from Psalm 118:26, but if we read Psalm 118:26 we see that it says, "Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Therefore, it was this crowd who crowned Christ as King. The crowd treating Christ as King is also seen by the fact that they were laying their clothes in the road in front of Him in verse 36 as well as waving palm branches in the Matthew account.

† **To show why He come.** The symbolism of the donkey cannot be overlooked. The donkey symbolized humility. We read in Philippians 2:6-8, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Notice although Jesus was God, He humbled Himself and the Creator came down to His creation. The donkey also declared the intent of a King. If a king was coming to wage war against another nation they would ride a horse. However, if that same king was coming on a mission of peace they would ride a donkey. Therefore a neighboring city or nation would know the intent of a foreign king simply by what they were riding. Jesus' first coming was not a mission of judgment, but rather a mission of mercy. Jesus said in the last part of John 12:47, "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." Possibly nowhere greater can we see Jesus' mercy and compassion on all of mankind than in the first words He said on the cross. Luke 23:34 says, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots." Here was a perfect man, who never sinned, yet He was ridiculed, beaten, spit upon, and ultimately crucified not for a thing He had done, but for the things that you and I have done, and yet to His dying breath He was asking God the Father to forgive us. Jesus humbled Himself so that in due time we could be lifted up to the Father and be presented sinless. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." He became what we are so that we could become like Him. Jesus came the first time on a donkey to offer us peace with God. A peace that was secured by the shed blood of the King sitting on that donkey.