

The Week That Changed The World

John 12:12-31 NIV

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ 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!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

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John 12:12-31 focuses on the pivotal events surrounding Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his impending death, and the implications for humanity.

The introduction draws a parallel between Winston Churchill's comprehensive biography and the Gospels' accounts of Jesus' life, emphasizing the significance of the final week. Palm Sunday serves as the gateway to this transformative period, marked by contrasts between triumph and tragedy, joy and judgment.

A. Introduction

- The biography of Winston Churchill is likened to the Gospels' depiction of Jesus' life, with special emphasis on the final week.
- Palm Sunday introduces Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, setting the stage for the events to unfold.

B. Idea 1 – It Was A Day Of Praise

- Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is celebrated by crowds, fulfilling prophecy and affirming his kingship.
- The symbolism of Jesus riding a donkey contrasts with earthly notions of kingship, emphasizing humility.
- Despite opposition, Jesus allows the praise to benefit the people, highlighting the significance of recognizing him as Messiah.

C. Idea 2 – A Need Was Met

- Jesus encounters Greeks seeking him, symbolizing the inclusion of Gentiles in salvation.
- He speaks of his impending death as a necessity for bearing much fruit, emphasizing self-denial and wholehearted discipleship.
- Those who truly seek Jesus find fulfillment and peace, illustrating the universal appeal of his message.

D. Idea 3 - The Great Exchange

- Jesus discusses the necessity of choosing eternal life over temporal pleasures, emphasizing the stakes of one's life investment.
- His impending death is acknowledged with human emotions, yet it fulfills his mission to reconcile humanity with God.
- Divine confirmation of Jesus' identity and mission strengthens believers' faith, pointing to victory over evil through his sacrifice.

E. Application for Believers Today

- Believers are urged to embrace humility, sacrificial love, and discipleship, recognizing the global impact and universal relevance of the Gospel.
- Finding comfort and assurance in God's confirmation, believers are encouraged to trust His plan even in troubled times.

F. Conclusion

- The passage highlights Jesus' identity, mission, and the call to discipleship, inviting believers to follow his example.
- Reflecting on Holy Week, believers find forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- The invitation is extended to all to recognize Jesus as Lord and experience the transformative power of faith.

In summary, this passage offers a profound reflection on the significance of Jesus' final week, emphasizing humility, sacrifice, discipleship, and the universal impact of the Gospel.

It challenges believers to embrace these truths and find hope in Jesus' victory over sin and death.