



Sunday, March 28, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Matthew 21:1-11

There is a certain irony to the thought of the “triumphal entry” of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the Roman Empire, the “triumph” was a parade held in the aftermath of a military victory. The victors would parade through the streets of the city to the cheers and shouts of its citizens. In their wake would come the prisoners of the vanquished. They would be paraded as a display of Roman power to subdue all others.

But in Christ’s triumph, it was not in the aftermath of the victory, but in advance of it. His victory would not be a military success—the overthrow of the Roman oppressors. Rather, He was to be killed by them. And what’s more, it was not His enemies who would be paraded through the streets, but He Himself would be paraded through the streets on His way to death by execution.

Yet the great irony of ironies is that Jesus’s death was His victory. His great triumph is that He came as the King of the Jews and He would rise again a week later as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. His triumph is on-going, and if we are in Him, we get to be a part of it!

Context

As Pastor Don highlighted, this triumphal entry took place on the heels of Jesus’s raising of Lazarus from the dead and the banquet at Bethany (John 11-12). Having performed His greatest miracle yet, Jesus had attracted quite a following. Though crowds were drawn to Him in His ministry in Galilee, one has to think that the crowds attracted in and around Jerusalem at the time of the national festival would have been far greater. These crowds set the scene for not only His dramatic entrance, but ultimately His trial, death, and resurrection as well.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 21:1-11

“Questions and Answers”

What an Entrance!

- Intentionally planned (v. 1-7)
- Extraordinary praise (v. 8-9)

The City’s Question (v. 10)

- Stirred... curiosity?
- Stirred... contempt?
- Stirred... hopefulness?

The Crowd’s Answer (v. 11)

- Son of David God’s Messiah
- Jesus of Nazareth God’s Savior
- Prophet God’s Messenger

What is your answer to the question: Who is Jesus?

Discuss

- 1) What attributes do you think your non-believing friends/family/neighbors would use to describe Jesus?
- 2) Which attributes of Christ that Pastor Don described (prophet, priest, king) are most understated in the church/among Christians today?
- 3) What are some of the danger of not having an accurate answer to the question: Who is Jesus?
- 4) In what ways is Jesus's authority on display in this passage?
- 5) In what ways will Jesus's second coming be different from His first?