



Easter 2018

Road to the Cross

Setting

Celebration of the Passover

Popularity of Jesus

- Lazarus – John 11
- Recognition of Jesus popularity & power
 - large crowds
 - disciples evidencing spiritual authority
 - raise the dead

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Jesus Predicts His Death three times

Luke 18:31-33 “And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”

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Jesus Set his Face towards Jerusalem

Luke 9:51 “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

- was walking right into threats – John 11
- public event at a spiritually charged moment

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Matthew 21:1-17 “Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

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“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

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And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

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And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?" And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there."

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Things to Notice

1. Jesus Declares Openly Who He Is

a) Riding on a Donkey

- Zech. 9:9 – prophecy & Jewish tradition

b) Cleansing at the Temple

- Isaiah 56:7, authority & terms

c) Healing the Sick & Broken

- Isaiah 35:4-6

- eyes of blind opened, ears of deaf unstopped, lame leap, mute sing.

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d) Response to the Praise of Children

- see Psalm 8

*Jesus is clear – I am the King, promised Messiah, the one you are awaiting.

2. Response to Jesus

a) People respond

- offering praise - Hosanna

- claiming him as King – treason in the day

- anticipating His deliverance from the Roman occupation

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b) religious leaders respond

- call him out for receiving praise
- determine he is a threat to their authority
- fear of Roman response & backlash
- plan to Kill Jesus – John 11:47-48

“So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

- 11:53 – plan to put Him to death

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3. Response of Jesus

a) weeps for them

- Luke 19:41-44 “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

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- knowing the ultimate terms of peace
- knowing the destruction of Jerusalem in 40 years
- knowing they were missing what was happening & His presence
 - *see mercy, sorrow, genuine response to them while moving forward with what God had planned for the redemption of mankind.

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b) Jesus receives their praise

- one day there will be understanding
- does not stop them because they don't fully get what is going on

c) Jesus goes forward – with clarity

- Matt. 20:28 “even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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So What?

1. What people saw and what God was up to was different.
 - they saw immediate deliverance, justification
 - God was redeeming, ransoming, saving
2. We can see what God was doing, respond
 - praise and worship
 - re-alignment & response
 - communicating who God is and what He has done