

TRUE HOPE NEEDS THE RIGHT JESUS

Matthew 21:1-11 ■ April 5, 2020

Did You Come to the _____ Jesus? 8-11

Is Jesus Really Your _____? 1-7

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ *"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.'"*

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." (ESV)

True Hope Needs the Right Jesus

April 5, 2020

Open: What could you do this week to help remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection?

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

1. In verses 1-3 Jesus gives very specific instructions to His disciples about acquiring a donkey for Him to ride on as He enters Jerusalem. What does this account imply about Jesus' knowledge and power? (*See vv. 6-7.*) In your life right now, what are some specific things that you are thankful Jesus knows, understands and reigns over?
2. Jesus' means of entering Jerusalem fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, quoted in Matthew 21:5. What does this prophecy reveal about Jesus' role in the plan of God? How does the mode of Jesus' arrival seem contrary to this role? How else have you seen Jesus take surprising paths to accomplish His goals? Why do we need to remember that God often works this way?
3. **Read Matthew 20:25-28.** In what way does Jesus' entry into Jerusalem reflect what Jesus had just taught his disciples in Matthew 20:25-28? As you think about Jesus' whole life and ministry, how does it seem contrary to the common earthly perception of a king? If Jesus is our model, how should His example here shape our view and practice of the Christian life?
4. In Matthew 21:9, the crowds following Jesus shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" **Read Psalm 118:22-26.** How do you see these words pointing to Jesus as Messiah? (*See also Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:4.*) How should Old Testament passages about the coming Messiah bring us encouragement?
5. How does the response of the people of the city in verse 10 reflect a different perspective from that of the crowds who have been with Jesus? How might this account for the reaction of Matthew 27:20-23? How well is the identity of Jesus understood in our culture? Why? What are some creative ways you could help unbelieving individuals better understand who Jesus is?
6. In what way would these crowds who hoped Jesus would be the king who would conquer their Roman oppressors, later be disappointed in Him? What helps you when Jesus doesn't meet your expectations? Are there ways you are now feeling some disappointment in Jesus? What truths from this passage might help strengthen your hope and faith in Jesus during this time?

Pray: Pray that God would work in mighty ways throughout our community and our world as churches across the globe prepare for a very unusual celebration of Resurrection Sunday.

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