

# JESUS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY



Christ to the World Ministries

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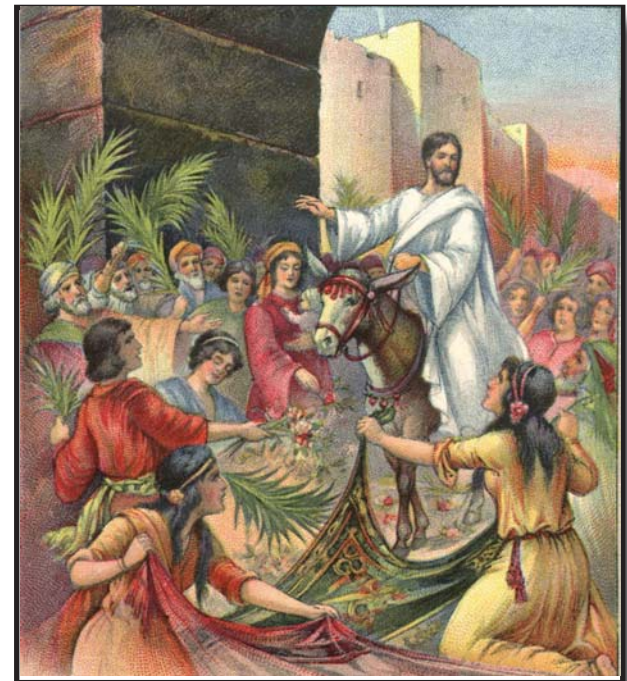
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**CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES**

# Jesus' Triumphal Entry

## Read Luke 19:28-44 in your Bible

Everyone--from very young to very old--enjoys parades or processions. These may be religious, leading the way to temple or shrine, or general, celebrating a special day or event. But there will always be crowds lining the streets watching the colorful procession.

In these spectacles we would expect to find three common themes: Symbolism, emotion, and meaning. In Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of his last week on earth, these three themes were also present.

### Jesus' Entry Involved Symbolism

Kings in the world of Jesus' day loved processions. They especially celebrated victories by triumphal processions back into their capital city. The king would ride on his warhorse with his armies behind him. Captives, especially rulers conquered in war, were led in chains behind the king. His subjects would run to meet him, scattering flowers in front of his horse.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, his followers took that action as the sign that he was coming in triumph as the king anointed by God. They believed he would take over the Roman Empire and make Jerusalem the capital. Jesus came down from the Mount of Olives on a steep, rocky roadway. His disciples tore branches off the palm trees and cast them into the rocky path. They even threw off their robes and dropped them into the road. They called out, "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (Luke 19:38). This was as close to a triumphal procession as they could come.

Jesus did not try to stop their celebrating. In fact, the Pharisees tried to get him to quiet his disciples (Luke 19:39). But Jesus answered that this rejoicing was appropriate. In fact, he said, "*If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out*" (Luke 19:40). He knew that he was the king promised by prophets many centuries before.

But Jesus had a different symbolism in mind. He knew that he was not a warlord who had triumphed over his enemies. He was a king of peace. So he arranged for a friend to loan him a donkey on which to ride into Jerusalem. In this way he fulfilled the words spoken by Zechariah long ago (Zechariah 9:9-10). This ancient prophet had declared that God's king would be a man of peace and humility.

### Jesus' Entry Involved Emotion

The disciples of Jesus expressed their emotions for all to see. They were joyful over the prospect of their wonderful Teacher's becoming the king for whom all Israel had been waiting. They had no doubts to cloud their joy.

Jesus, on the other hand, experienced deep sorrow. The Bible says that as Jesus rode down the hill and saw the magnificent city spread out before him, "*he wept over it*" (Luke 19:41). He knew the end of that great city. In another forty years the Roman armies would besiege the city and would "*not leave one stone on another*" (Luke 19:44). He mourned because the people had rejected him and his message. He had preached to them what would bring peace, but they would not hear him.

### Jesus' Entry Involved Meaning

Behind Jesus' weeping was deep love--the love of God shed through Jesus Christ upon human beings. The heart of the kingdom of God is love, for "*God is love*" (1 John 4:8).

The meaning of Jesus' ride on the donkey down into the city of Jerusalem was that he was truly the king ordained of God. The kingdom over which he would rule is the kingdom of love. Everything Jesus had done in his three years of preaching had been done out of love. Now everything that he would do or would endure in the last week of his life would also reflect that same love.

### Conclusion

Jesus tried to show the difference between his kingship and the rulers of the world. His disciples, thinking only of their own positions of power, asked Jesus who would be greatest in his kingdom. He answered that his kingdom was different. He would be king by being the servant of all and "*to give his life a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). This is how he would show his love for all persons.

Jesus' love cannot be forced on anyone. This was made clear when Jesus' disciples chose to interpret his kingdom as one of force rather than love. They were glad for him to be a king, but they wanted a kingdom where they would rule. They loved Jesus, but they did not understand him or accept his kingdom of love.

This is the reason why Jesus began his sermons about the kingdom of God with the word "repent." No one can live out of God's love unless that love rules in his heart. When our hearts are filled with dreams of power, ease, and self-fulfillment, there is no room for God's love. We have to repent, and that word means to "turn completely around and go in a different direction." We have to be willing to stop going in our direction and let God lead us in his direction.

This is a time when you can repent and turn your life over to Jesus Christ, the true king of God's kingdom of love. When we open our hearts to God, his love is "*poured out . . . into our hearts by the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 5:5). God will not turn you away, but will receive you with great rejoicing.

**Pray this prayer:** *Dear God I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."*

**Welcome into God's family!** Share with others that you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.