

ARRIVING IN JERUSALEM RIGHT ON TIME

I. [Matthew 21:1-11](#) [Galatians 4:4-6](#) [Romans 5:6-9](#) [Matthew 23:37-39](#)

A. [Matthew 21:1-11](#) (ESV) tells us about the original Palm Sunday: **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."

B. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Sunday before Friday's crucifixion, is documented in all 4 Gospels. Jesus rode into the city to waving palm branches and shouts of *Hosanna!* People with Messianic hopes were convinced He would overthrow the Roman occupiers. Jewish leaders were convinced Jesus was not the promised Messiah. Only Jesus alone understood the mission at hand...

C. Within days of the first Palm Sunday, cheers would turn to jeers. Waving branches would be replaced by clinched fists. The *Hosannas* would give way to "*crucify Him!*" Dejected Pharisees on Sunday would have their execution-hopes renewed as Judas willingly betrayed our Lord for 30 pieces of silver. The ultra religious Pharisees stooped to lying, hurling false accusations, holding illegal trials, and all this to achieve their hell-borne goal of murdering God's only Son...

D. Just like they persecuted and killed the prophets before Christ, they were driven yet again. But the truth is, they were playing into God's holy and sovereign plan that stretched back before time began. Jesus was not arriving in Jerusalem at a bad time--not too early, not too late--but right on time. How do I know? The Bible tells us so! [Galatians 4:4-6](#) (NLT) affirms: **4** But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. **6** And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." (Jesus arrived right on time. His aim was to purchase your adoption!) [Romans 5:6-9](#) (NLT) echoes loud and clear: **6** When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. **7** Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **8** But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **9** And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation (i.e. His wrath). (Jesus arrived right on time!)

E. If you leave here today thinking His timing was off, He was a tad too early or a tad too late; or you leave here today thinking He came on time, but not for you, then you'll leave here worse off than you came! But if you acknowledge His coming included you, that His blood was shed even for you, that His redemption was for you, that your sins were forgiven along with all those for whom He died, that He came not to condemn you but to adopt you--this will be among your greatest of days, second only perhaps to the Day He raises you from the dead!

F. Luke tells us that Jesus wept as He entered Jerusalem. Earlier Jesus had wept near Lazarus' tomb, even knowing He was about to raise His friend from the dead. But seeing Jerusalem He weeps yet again. Then somewhere between Sunday and Friday, Jesus delivers some very cryptic words directed towards the Scribes & Pharisees known as the "*Seven Woes*." And then He prophesies to the city who waved the branches. **Matthew 23:37-39 (NIV) says:** *37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'*

G. "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*" is what the people shouted just days before when Jesus rode in on the donkey. Now He announces that the Day will come when those words will be uttered even by those who did not receive Him. Paul meant the same when He wrote in **Philippians 2:** "*...At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" (Many will bow their knees and declare His Lordship joyfully. But others will do so with great sorrow and regret because they rejected the only One who could save them. (I urge you to be among the former group and not the latter!)

H. Like the chorus from the old Hank Williams song from 1956:

*How can you refuse Him now, how can you refuse Him now?
How can you turn away from His side?
With tears in His eyes, on the cross there He died,
How can you refuse Jesus now?*

I. On that first Palm Sunday, people waved branches even though many had no clue as to why. But you now know exactly why! Palm branches in many cultures represent victory. Triumph! So take your branches home today, tape them to your doors or lay them somewhere where you'll have to notice them. Let them remind you and all those who see them of the victory Jesus achieved on His cross and His triumph three days later when He walked out of that tomb. We will celebrate those victories a week from today on Resurrection Sunday...

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Matthew 21:1-11 \(ESV\)](#)

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."

Galatians 4:4-6 (NLT)

4 But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **5** God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. **6** And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."

Romans 5:6-9 (NLT)

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. **7** Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **8** But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **9** And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

Matthew 23:37-39 (NIV)

37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **38** Look, your house is left to you desolate. **39** For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Bonus Goodies

Palm Sunday - Spirit Juice Studios

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Vor55BoE0>

"Ride On Ride On in Majesty" - Cathedral Church of the Advent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z25kzHaJffs>

"How Can You Refuse Him Now?" - Hank Williams (1956)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo9XXzfvEt4>

"Sing Hosanna" - Ken Middleton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKFmzNPq7FA>

"Shout Hosanna" - The Donut Man & Kids

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rem79QoAwTY>

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Zechariah 9:9 \(NIV\)](#)

9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

[Psalm 118:21-29 \(NIV\)](#)

21 I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation. **22** The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **23** the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. **24** This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success! **26** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless You. **27** The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give You thanks; You are my God, and I will exalt You. **29** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

[Mark 11:1-11 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" **11** And He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

[Luke 19:28-44 \(ESV\)](#)

28 And when He had said these things, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** When He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on

entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” **32** So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. **33** And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” **34** And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” **35** And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. **36** And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. **37** As He was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, **38** saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **39** And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” **40** He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” **41** And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, **42** 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. **43** 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 **44** 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.”

John 12:12-29 (ESV)

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. **17** The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard he had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.” **20** Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked Him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. **27** “Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29** The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)

4 As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” **7** Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The Stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and, “A Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV)

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, “*Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*” **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, “*Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.*”

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) written in 1827

1. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

2. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

3. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching Sacrifice.

4. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on His sapphire throne

Expects His own anointed Son.

5. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain.
Then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign!

How Can You Refuse Him Now?

Hank Williams - Circa 1956

How can you refuse Him now, how can you refuse Him now?
How can you turn away from His side?
With tears in His eyes, on the cross there He died
How can you refuse Jesus now?

There's a story old that has often been told
Of how our Savior died, as they nailed His hands
He cried, "They don't understand"
As the blood flowed from His side.

How can you refuse Him now, how can you refuse Him now?
How can you turn away from His side?
With tears in His eyes, on the cross there He died
How can you refuse Jesus now?

As He hung there on the tree, He prayed for you and me
There was no one His pain to ease.
Before He died, He faintly cried
"Father, forgive them, please."

How can you refuse Him now, how can you refuse Him now?
How can you turn away from His side?
With tears in His eyes, on the cross there He died
How can you refuse Jesus now?

Quote by Augustus Toplady

"When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves."

- Augustus Montague Toplady (1740 - 1778) was an Anglican pastor and hymn writer. He is best remembered as the author of the hymn, "*Rock of Ages*."

Quote by Corrie ten Boom When Asked About Humility

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road, and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that

any of that was for him?" ...If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in His glory, I give Him all the praise and all the honor."

Quote by Tom Fuller

"For much of Jesus' ministry He urged people to be quiet about who He was. When He healed He told people not to say anything, when He confronted demons who recognized Him as the Son of God He told them to shut up. That's because it wasn't time for Him to declare Himself as the Messiah. On Palm Sunday the time had come."

Quote by Billy Graham

"Are you perhaps one of those who worries about having committed the unpardonable sin? If so, you should face squarely what the Bible says on this subject, not what you may have heard from others. The unpardonable sin is rejecting the truth about Christ. It is rejecting, completely and finally, the witness of the Holy Spirit, which declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who alone can save us from our sins. Have you rejected Christ in your own life, and said in your heart that what the Bible teaches about Him is a lie? Then I tell you as solemnly and as sincerely as I know how that you are in a very dangerous position. I urge you without delay to accept the truth about Christ, and to come to humble confession and repentance and faith. It would be tragic for you to persist in your unbelief, and eventually go into eternity without hope and without God."

Sermon Excerpt by Pastor Steve

One of the Hebrew phrases they shouted was *'Hoshiya na!'* which we translate, Hosanna! It's a cry for help and a shout of hope, all in a single word. (Pleading + Praising) *"Save us Lord--we praise You!"* Think of an emergency where one says, *"Call 911--oh praise God the squad just arrived!"* V9 again: "And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, *"Hoshiya na! to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hoshiya na! in the highest!"*

If you call 911 the dispatcher will ask, *"What is your emergency?"* When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the emergency was sin and death and all its offspring: enslavement, brokenness, blindness, hopelessness, lawlessness, idolatry, immorality, hatred, murder, abject poverty--spiritual and otherwise. But Jesus was coming to do something about all of it and that would involve dying on a cross.

What's your 911 emergency? Your marriage? Your children? Finances? Addiction? Health crisis? Aging parents? Aging self? Depression? Doubt or fear? Worry or dread? Idolatry? Immorality? Pride? Selfishness? Self-righteousness? Have you cried, *Hoshiya na!?!* Or do you believe this King is unable to rescue you, heal you, or deliver you? Have you convinced yourself that you're beyond His reach? Remember His royal proclamation, directed to you: Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

- Excerpt from sermon titled, *"Hoshiya Na to the King!"* by Pastor Steve Bush, April 9, 2017.