

The Triumphant Entry....

John 12:12-13 - The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, went out to meet Him, and cried: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord -- the King of Israel!"

Lazarus had been raised from the dead! Other miracles had occurred. There had been witnesses who had seen them! Now the one who had performed these miracles was on his way to Jerusalem. This must be the Messiah! He must be coming to take over! He has come to occupy the throne of David! He is the "King of Israel!" Can you just imagine the excitement building? Can you begin to get a feel of the frenzied, bottled up dreams and emotions that this crowd was letting loose of as they sought to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem?

But **Zechariah 9:9** says: "Behold your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." Had Jesus come to fulfill the earthly, nationalistic ambitions of these people he would have ridden on a horse, as a warring liberator. But he came on a donkey...an honored animal in that day, as a Man of Peace. And no one, not even the disciples, understood what all this meant until much later when the Spirit enlightened their minds through the crucifixion and resurrection. How about you and me? Do we often have false expectations of what Jesus will and can do for us? Are we still looking for the powerful leader on the horse and not the gentle King who comes on a donkey's colt. Sometimes our wishes for Jesus are about as self-serving as the crowd so many years ago.

And in the face of Jesus' humility and service, that same crowd went from a ticker tape parade on Sunday to calling for his death on Friday. They went from celebrating Him to shouting "Crucify him!" Jesus is the mighty Son of God, but he came lowly and meek, to be crucified that sin and death might be destroyed. And we must not cling to the riches and rewards of this life, but give that up to be obedient to Jesus and to live a life that is honored by God.

Join me this week as we ask ourselves the question: What are the desires of our hearts in response to Jesus as our King? Has our faith journey moved from the "Parade of Palm Sunday" to a life of seeking to be a disciple of Jesus? Spend some extra time this week, with me, at the foot of the cross...in his word and in prayer.

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, how we'd loved to have been a part of your "parade," showing you love and adoration and laying palms at your feet. Create in us hearts and souls that honor the "king" you are...a servant...and make us like you, Lord, please make us like you. As we walk toward Good Friday and your death on a cross, grant us new insight and understanding as to what it means that you loved us so much that you died for us that we might have eternal life, now and forever. You are an awesome God and we rededicate our lives to you. In your precious name we pray. Amen