

Lesson 27: The Triumphal Entry

Objective: To know that the *opportunity* for salvation, for His service which is here "today" may be gone forever "tomorrow."

Background: The Passion Week, followed by the Resurrection, begins with the Palm Sunday, the day Jesus entered Jerusalem. The importance of the last week's events is readily seen in the amount of space devoted to it by all Four Gospel writers (Consult the chart: The Four Gospels and the Laws of Composition). Instead of entering Jerusalem secretly under the cover of darkness, Jesus went openly and triumphantly. It is one of the few events recorded by all Four Gospel writers.

Instruction: Read carefully John 12:1-11; Luke 19: 28-40; 41-44 as if you were an eyewitness.

Let's Think: Be sure to read first the passage listed at the end of the question before answering it.

Saturday~ at Bethany~ (John 12:1-11).

During His earthly ministry, Jesus enjoyed the friendship of a family in Bethany (Lk. 10:38-41; Jn.11:1-5). It was there, He spent His last Sabbath. On the eve of His entry into Jerusalem, after the Sabbath had officially ended, they made Him a feast.

1. How did Mary express her love and devotion to Jesus at the feast? (Visualize the scene). Why was her act of love met with criticism from Judas Iscariot, a disciple? What does Jesus mean to each of them: Mary and Judas? Explain. (According to Mt. 20:2, a "denarius" was a day's wage).
2. How did Jesus defend Mary's action against Judas' criticism? How would Mary have felt had she said to herself, "Wait until some other time"? Why?

Sunday~ to Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-44; also, John 12:12-19).

3. For the past three years Jesus had been to Jerusalem for feasts, each time he went privately and quietly. But, what's unusual about this time? Explain (Lk.19: 28-40; Jn. 12: 12-19). What's significant about it in the light of Jn.11:55-57; 12:9-11?
4. What claim was Jesus making when He chose to ride on a colt (ass) to Jerusalem (Mt. 21:4-5; read also, Zechariah 9:9). Why did He make His identity known which He had refused to do during the course of His ministry? (Consider also the following two questions).
5. Why did Jesus weep when Jerusalem and its magnificent Temple came into view? What prediction did He make, which literally came to pass in 70 A.D., some 40 years later? (Lk. 19:41-44).
6. How did the welfare of the Jews as a nation tie up with the mission of Jesus, the visitation of God? Did the Jews miss "the opportunity" because of their ignorance or their willful blindness? Explain.
7. Is there an "opportunity" you have today that you may not have tomorrow? Think about what you would do with it before it passes you by.

Let's Remember: "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2b) ...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2:3a).