

Triumphal Entry

7-14-24

John 12:12–15 (ESV) **v.15 O/H**

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So 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!” ¹⁴And 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!”

Jesus is coming to the culmination to HIS earthly ministry. It is the day after Jesus had dinner with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. It was the time when all the Jews came to celebrate the major Jewish Feast of Passover. Therefore, the population of Jerusalem had swelled enormously. *Josephus, a first-century Jewish writer, says on one occasion the numbers present for Passover reached 2,700,000. At this time Jesus had grown in fame and many looked to Him as the coming Messiah. Many people took palm branches and went out to meet him. Waving palm branches, the crowd was shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ / ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!’ This certainly caught the attention of the Jewish Religious leaders and even the Roman authorities. Earlier in HIS ministry Jesus avoided the crowds who wanted to make HIM king, but now HE accepted their praise. However, Jesus doesn’t come in like a conquering King mounted on a war-horse. HE comes riding on a donkey!*

Jesus comes fulfilling Scripture. In Zechariah 9:9, it is prophesied that the Messiah will come humbly riding on a donkey. Jesus born in a stable is now making HIS triumphal entry on a donkey. After Jesus enters Jerusalem, something happens that is only recorded in John. Jesus is approached by Gentiles.

John 12:20–24 (ESV)

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.”

This event is significant. When Gentiles approach Jesus, HE declares that this is “evidence” that the time has come to open “the way to God” to the entire world and thus to fuse Jewish and Gentile believers into one body – as in 10:16.

John 10:16 (ESV) O/H

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Now the hour has come, the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified. Only when Jesus is glorified in death and resurrection will the Greeks (all Gentiles, all the world) be redeemed.

To accomplish this objective, Jesus must go to the cross. Plus, Jesus says a similar unifying self-sacrificing love is to be evident in all those who follow HIM.

John 12:25–26 (ESV) v.26b O/H

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.

Jesus explained what it means to hate one's life by saying, "Whoever serves me must follow me." When we make a choice for Jesus over this world, God the Father will honor us. This commitment is reinforced by the Apostle Paul.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

The magnitude of HIS coming death weighed heavily on Jesus. HE knew HIS triumphal entry would lead directly to the cross.

John 12:27 (ESV)

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.

Jesus fully knew the death HE was to die and its purpose.

John 12:32–33 (ESV)

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

This does not imply that all people will ultimately be saved. It means that Christ draws all people to himself indiscriminately, without regard to nationality, race, or status. There exists only two groups of people, those who know Jesus and those who don't know Jesus.

John 12:44 (ESV) **O/H**

And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in ME, believes not in ME but in HIM who sent ME."

To know God, you must know Jesus. Jesus equated belief in HIM with belief in God as stated in First John:

1 John 2:23 (ESV)

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

The Father and the Son are inseparable; though they are two personalities, they are one God and work as one being. In summary, what does the Triumphal Entry tell us? #1 We need to listen carefully to every word Jesus says, because God the Father and Jesus speak the same Words.

John 12:50 (ESV)

What I say, I say as the Father has told ME.

#2 Jesus' commitment to the Cross, should be reflective in our commitment to Jesus. We love because Jesus first loved us.

The King of Peace says, "Look to ME; Listen to ME!"

John 14:6 (ESV) **O/H**

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through ME."