



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 053: Palm Sunday

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Read Matt 21:1-11

Introduction: What was the crowd's understanding of the events of Palm Sunday? Whom did they reckon Jesus to be? In this Study we shall try to get into the minds of the pilgrim crowd who were welcoming Jesus in His entry to Jerusalem. Clues will be found in what people were saying and the things they did.

1. Pilgrim "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*" (v9) are from Psalm 118 and were traditionally quoted to welcome pilgrims to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Read Psalm 118:14-29 and see if you can identify anything else it says prophetically of Jesus.

2. Prophet. "*This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee*" (v11). People had been saying this of Jesus for some while (Mark 6:15, 8:28). It was an inadequate description of Jesus, of course, but it was true nonetheless. With the aid of a concordance, identify where it was prophesied that the Messiah would be a prophet.

3. King. Compare Verse 7 with the people's reception of Jehu as a conquering king, in 2 Kings 9:11-13. What were the Passover crowd re-enacting for Jesus? See also the prophecy of Zechariah in Zech 9:9, and Psalm 24.

4. The Messiah. "*Hosanna to the Son of David*" (v9) *The Son of David* was a messianic title. *Hosanna* is not just a word of praise; it has a more specific meaning. What is that meaning? (Look it up in a Bible dictionary if you are unsure), and how is this appropriate of Jesus?

I have endeavoured to list these three descriptions of Jesus in increasing depth of understanding. Can you see the progression of thought?

To think about: Imagine yourself to be among the crowd of pilgrims lining the road to Jerusalem when Jesus entered on a donkey. What might have been your feelings, understanding and reaction to this event?

To dig deeper: Read commentaries on the prophecy of Zechariah in Zech 9:9, Psalm 24 and their fulfilment in the Gospels (Matt 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10 and Luke 19:28-40).