

Matthew 21 v 1-11 5th April 2020 – Palm Sunday

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

*5 "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'* "

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Questions:

1. If someone important was to visit Slough (during normal times!) what preparations would be made to greet them?
2. What town did Jesus visit on Palm Sunday and why?
3. Jesus went on a donkey, not a stallion. What does this portray?
4. What kind of kingdom and king were the people expecting? How did this compare with Jesus?
5. Did this difference contribute to their jeering and shouting crucify in chapter 27?
6. What difference does it make to us that Jesus is a gentle king, rather than the sort of ruler described in chapter 20 v 25?
7. If we were standing in that crowd in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (but knowing what we know) how would we react? What pressures would we face? How would we feel about what was going on?
8. How is what we know about Jesus affecting our behaviour today in the exceptional circumstances we are in (where there are no crowds)?