

No Thorns, No Throne; No Cross, No Crown!

#3227 25 0413A—Palm Sunday

wds1647

Zech. 9:9 *Your King is coming to you on a colt*
Jn 12:16 *Remembered these things were written*
Rev. 7:9 *A great multitude no one could number*
Isaiah 6:10, *Their hearts have become calloused*
John 12:26 *Whoever serves me must follow me*

1 Our Lord and Savior had all four—and He is now the King with a *throne* and a *crown* of those who trust Him in faith for the salvation of their soul.

2 He enters Jerusalem as a Monarch—NKJV Zechariah 9:9 *“Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey.”*

3 It was an example of humility by choosing a lowly foal rather than a majestic steed.

4 The Christian world celebrates this day when the King of kings entered Jerusalem to shouts of approval: *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!”*

5 And NKJV Psalm 24:8 *“Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.”*

6 After restoring sight for two men in Jericho and having dinner with Zaccheus, the Lord Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem.

7 As He nears the city, He approaches the end of His earthly ministry—He will complete the work He was sent to do—atone for sins.

8 Multitudes followed Jesus to celebrate *Passover* but did not realize He was the actual *Passover Lamb* who would sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world.

9 NKJV Matthew 21:1 *“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them,*

10 *“Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”*

11 With this, Jesus set in motion a series of events that would lead to the cross. It was all part of the Father’s plan to save a world heading for the flames.

12 Many came to the small hamlet of Bethany to see *Jesus* and *“Lazarus whom He had brought back to life”* John 12:9.

13 Lazarus was a living testimony of Jesus’ divine power, and a threat to the religious leaders—who *“made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him”* 10-11.

14 It was the next day that Jesus came to Bethphage and prepared to enter the city of Jerusalem through the east gate.

15 Zechariah predicted NIV Matthew 21:5 *“See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey,”* Zech. 9:9.

16 The King of all kings should ride into town on a white stallion—but Jesus did *not* come in wealth and splendor—He came in *lowliness* and *humility*—setting that example for the world.

17 Jesus did not come to *slay enemies* but to *save people* from eternal destruction.

18 Jesus was a King like no other king, and His coronation like no other coronation.

19 Kings of this world enter a city with pomp and pageantry, but Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt—a message of humility for a world needing that reminder.

20 We often want the *best*, the *most*, and the *latest*—and Jesus could have had the *best* of anything, but He chose the *least* of everything.

21 *Humility of heart* and *obedience to the Father* is the example Jesus gives everyone today.

22 Jesus told His followers of the divine plan and the eternal sacrifice He would make for the world.

23 AV John 12:16 *“These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.”*

24 It was the custom of that day for citizens to lay garments on the road for a king—symbolizing *respect* and *submission* to his authority.

25 While some were putting garments on the path *“others cut [palm] branches from the trees and spread them on the road”*—palms symbolize *victory* and *triumph* over an enemy.

26 The apostle tells of this *future* event NKJV Revelation 7:9 *“I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”*

27 They cried out **10** *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

28 Jesus entered Jerusalem that day amid much excitement and praising Him as their Lord, Messiah, and King. He was surrounded by a multitude who shouted NKJV Matthew 21:9 *“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!”*

29 The crowd thought the Messiah would bring them deliverance from Rome, and when that did not happen, they turned against Him.

30 At first, they shouted “*Hosanna!*” **Matthew 21:9**—“*save now,*” but the crowd was not interested in Jesus *saving* their *souls*—they wanted a king to *save* their *nation*.

31 They were preparing to celebrate the Passover to commemorate Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, and the people thought it was a good time for the Messiah to give them political freedom from Roman rule and oppression.

32 The mission of Jesus was not to conquer *Rome*—but to conquer *sin*. He did not come to make *war* with Rome, but for *us* to make *peace* with God.

33 Although the shouts of praise fulfilled prophecy, the crowd did not realize that what Jesus would accomplish on the *cross* would fulfill an even more *important* prophecy.

34 Jesus did not enter Jerusalem with soldiers to defend Him, but with a crowd who shouted, “*Hosanna to the Son of David!*” one minute and *Crucify Him* the next! Jesus *was* the Messiah and King—but the people did not understand His kingdom.

35 They needed to know that “*The Kingdom of God is within you*” **Luke 17:21**—because when the Holy Spirit is within us, we *treat* people like Jesus did; we *grow* in our faith; we *increase* our knowledge of God; and we *learn* to trust Him for eternal life in Heaven.

36 When the crowds realized that Jesus did *not* come to free them from Rome, they turned against Him and said, “*We don't want this man to be our king*” **Luke 19:14**.

37 The people rejected Him as *King* and refused to allow Him to be *Ruler* of their life.

38 Many today *proclaim* Jesus as king—as long as that doesn’t mean giving up the world; giving

up their wrong desires; or repenting of their unscriptural lifestyles.

39 When God’s Word confronts their *selfish* financial treasures, they reject His Lordship. Too many **Matthew 19:22** “*go away sad, because they will not give up, their laid up treasure.*”

40 The coronation of Jesus as the Messiah and King that day, was an empty *pretense* like so many professions of faith today. Their *words* honored Him, but their *hearts* rejected Him **Matthew 15:8**.

41 Jesus had not come to be *crowned* but to be *crucified*.

42 He came to *save* sinners—saying **John 12:32**, “*If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me.*” That is why He came—so they would know of *His love* for them, and they would give *their love* to Him.

43 He came to save those He loves. **Philippians 2:9-11** “*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

44 After the shouts of praise had subsided, many asked: “*Who is this?*” **Matthew 21:10**. They could only reply: “*Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.*” They praised Him as their *Messiah* one minute and called Him a *prophet* the next.

45 **Isaiah 6:10**, “*This people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.*”

46 They acknowledged Jesus as a *Prophet*—but *rejected* Him as their *King!* When we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we must really *mean* that in our heart.

47 **NIV John 12:26** “*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*”

48 If He is the *Ruler* of our *life*, He is also the *Savior* of our *soul*. Hymn #17 *All glory, laud, and honor, to Thee, Redeemer, King*.

49 The triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem that day on a colt, fulfilled prophecy **Zechariah 9:9** and confirmed the fact that Jesus was the Messiah who could save the world from eternal destruction.

50 This triumphal procession is one of the few times in Scripture that Jesus’ *glory* is recognized on earth. The Lord declared Himself King and the crowd joined Him—but they soon bowed to political pressure and turned away in anger.

51 That choice faces *all* of us today—to *accept* Jesus as Redeemer and King or *reject* Him as Lord and Savior.

52 Our praise must be *sincere*, and it must be connected to our *faith* and *trust* and *loyalty* to God. “*Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’*” **Matthew 21:9**.

53 The Bible’s last Book tells of *four living creatures* and the *twenty-four elders* singing in a *loud voice*...

54 **NIV Revelation 5:12** “*Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!*”

55 Someday soon the cry of “*How long!*” will be answered!



www.fcqchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:

fcqchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3227 25 0413A

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