

Scripture Reference: John 12:12-16

Date: March 24, 2013

Title: "The Triumphant Entry?"

Focus: Cheap Worship.

### **Intro:**

1. There exist four accounts in the Gospels of what has come to be known as "The Triumphant Entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem. This reflects the importance the apostles placed on this event.
2. They all share the same details. However, an interesting difference is noted when Matthew, Mark, and Luke are compared with John.

### **Body:**

#### A Reversed Order

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke all begin with Jesus securing the colt, then lead to the response of the people. (Matt. 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44)
- John starts with the reaction of the people, then moves to Jesus securing the donkey.

**vv. 12-13;** "[The people] *heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him, and began to shout, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD, even the King of Israel.'*"

**v. 14;** "*Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it.*"

## Ignorant Worship

- Why would John do this? Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John drew attention to the practice of ignorant worship.
- People can seemingly worship when they have no sense of what is taking place.
- Jesus warned the Samaritans of this (John 4:20-24) and Paul pointed it out to the people in Athens as well.

*Acts 17:22-23 "Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.'"*

- Shallow worship has no lasting impact. Those expressing themselves so exuberantly on this day are the same crying "Crucify!" a few short days later.
- They *worshipped* only as a reflex to Jesus' Messianic symbol, His riding on a donkey.

*v. 18 "For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign (riding on a donkey)."*

- Even the disciples weren't sure what was going on (v. 16).

## Costly Worship

- John highlights human fickleness, an aspect of our person we need to be aware of and protect against.
- So easily can words of praise be uttered with no sincere intention of fulfilling them. In a moment a promise can be made which then is difficult to enact
- We call it *worship* when people respond to music, testimony, or a message, but does it have any grounding in the will?
- Worship is to emanate from the core person. It is to involve all that we are, our emotions, bodies, and wills.

Romans 12:1-2 *"I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

- Worship is not *done*, it is *lived*. The first denotes a passing task, it is done, and then it is over. The second reveals worship to be a continual act.

### **Closing:**

1. The people who welcomed Jesus that day, including His disciples did not know what was taking place. Only later would they understand (v. 16).

2. What is the quality of your *worship*? Is your praise and acknowledgement of God limited to an event or is it a conscious ongoing decision of your life?

3. Ignorant worship is easy, ultimately meaningless, and cheap. Worship raising up from the spirit is costly, lasting, and difficult.