

## **X. THE PUBLIC OFFER OF JESUS AS THE KING OF THE JEWS**

**(Matt. 21:1-11)**

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### **A. AFTER JESUS LEFT JERICHO HE JOURNEYED TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AT BETHPHAGE WHICH WAS NEAR JERUSALEM (Matt. 21:1-7).**

1. Matthew records that Jesus sent two disciples from the Mount of Olives at Bethphage to fetch a donkey to ride upon (Matt. 21:1-5).
  - a. Notice firstly, the attribute of omniscience which Jesus displayed in directing His disciples to the place and owner of this donkey and that this donkey would have a colt with it (Matt. 21:2,3). Note also that the owner would comply with His request. Mark and Luke record how those with the donkey and colt did question the two disciples and consented to Jesus' request (Mk 11:3-6; Lk. 19:33,34).
  - b. Secondly, it should be noted that fetching this donkey, with its colt, to ride upon was a fulfillment of Scripture concerning Israel's Messiah (Matt. 21:4,5). This then was a direct fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9.
2. Matthew records that the two disciples fetched the donkey, as Jesus had requested, and they spread their clothes upon it and then set Jesus upon it (Matt. 21:6,7).

### **B. FINALLY, JESUS JOURNEYED TO JERUSALEM AND PRESENTED HIMSELF AS THE KING OF ISRAEL (Matt. 21:8-11).**

1. On the way to Jerusalem Matthew and the other gospel writers record how the crowds that followed Jesus spread their garments and tree branches in the way (Matt. 21:8). This was no doubt an act of worship and submission to Jesus as the Messiah. Matthew records also how the crowd cried out Hosanna to the Son of David (Matt. 21:9). This word means "save now" and from Mark 11:10 it seems that the crowd not only recognized Jesus as the Messiah, but also thought that the Kingdom was about to be established.
2. Upon entering Jerusalem, however, the Lord Jesus was met with rejection by the Jewish leaders who questioned who He was and demanded that His disciples be rebuked (Matt. 21:10; Lk. 19:39,40). Notice from this so called "Palm Sunday" one week later Jesus would be crucified and the sixty-nine weeks of prophecy for Israel would come to an end (Dan. 9:26). That would leave one week of seven years yet remaining and that will take place when the tribulation occurs after the church is raptured. Note Dan. 9:24.

## EXPOSITORY NOTES

- Matt. 21:1** Bethphage means "house of unripe figs". It was located between Jerusalem and Bethany and was a Sabbath day's journey from Jerusalem (Matt. 21:1; Mk. 11:1; Lk. 19:29). A Sabbath's journey was measured by the Jews to be two thousand cubits. This distance supposedly marked the distance between the ark of the covenant and the people in Joshua's day (Josh. 3:4). (Unger Bible Dictionary, p.721). It became the limit of the distance a person could travel on the Sabbath Day.
- Matt. 21:9** The word Hosanna means "save now." This exclamation was taken from Psalm 118 and was customarily cited by the O.T. priest at the Feast of Tabernacles. (Unger's Bible Dictionary, p. 500).
- Matt. 21:17** Bethany means "house of dates or affliction." It was located 2 miles east of Jerusalem. This is where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived and it's where Jesus stopped on several occasions (Lk. 10:38-42; Mk. 11:1-11; Lk. 19:29-35; Jn. 12:1-8).

## QUESTIONS WE CAN APPLY TO OUR LIVES

1. What was significant for Jesus to present Himself riding upon a donkey?  
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2. How did Jesus' followers show worship and submission to Him? How should we?  
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3. What lesson can we learn from the owner's attitude and consent in regard to the donkey and colt?  
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4. What principles regarding worship and praise can we learn from the multitude who followed Jesus?  
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5. According to Matt. 21:11 what place was Jesus given? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What place should we give the Lord Jesus in our lives?  
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