Who Is Jesus
Part Sixteen / Wednesday, April 10, 2019
THE “TRIUMPHANT ENTRY” OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM

The Last Week of Jesus’ Earthly Life

1. Arrival in Bethany Friday John 12:1

Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Last week, we studied our Lord’s raising Lazarus from the dead. This had taken place earlier in Jesus’ ministry, as He visited this home on several occasions. This time, Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with costly perfume as an act of humility and total worship.

2. Sabbath - Day of Rest Saturday (Details of this day are not given in Scripture)

3. THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY Sunday John 12:12-19

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, [13] Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. [14] And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, [15] Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh sitting on an ass’s colt. [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. [17] The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. [18] For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. [19] The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

On Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy: Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. The crowds joyfully welcomed Him.

4. Clearing of the Temple Monday Mark 11:15-18

And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; [16] And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. [17] And he taught, saying
unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of
prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. [18] And the scribes and chief priests
heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all
the people was astonished at his doctrine.

On this dramatic day, Jesus crossed back over the Kidron Valley and up the hill where
the Great Temple stood. There He found the Court of the Gentiles full of traders and
money changers making huge profits as they gave out Jewish coins in exchange for
“pagan” money. Jesus physically drove them out.

5. Day of Parables Tuesday Matthew 21:23 – 24:51

Jesus again crossed the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives where He spent the day
among the olive tree groves. Jesus taught His followers about coming events and
warned of the coming destruction of Herod’s Great Temple – which happened four
decades later when the Romans invaded he Holy City in 70 AD.

6. A Day of Rest Wednesday

The Scriptures do not give us details of this day. Jesus now has two days to live
before His crucifixion.

7. Passover and the Last Supper Thursday Mark 14:12-26

And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples
said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the
passover? [13] And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye
into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.
[14] And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master
saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?
[15] And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make
ready for us. [16] And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as
he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. [17] And in the evening
he cometh with the twelve. [18] And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say
unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. [19] And they began to
be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? [20]
And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in
the dish. [21] The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that
man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never
been born.

[22] And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to
them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. [23] And he took the cup, and when he
had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. [24] And he said unto
them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. [25] Verily I
say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

[26] And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

8. Crucifixion  Friday  Matthew 27:19-32

[19] When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. [20] But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. [21] The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. [22] Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. [23] And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

[24] When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. [25] Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

[26] Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. [27] Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. [28] And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

[29] And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! [30] And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. [31] And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Following betrayal (in Gethsemane), arrest, desertion, false trials, denial, condemnation, beatings and mockery, Jesus was required to carry His cross to “the place of the skull” – Golgotha.

9. In The Tomb  Friday-Saturday  Matthew 27:57-61

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: [58] He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. [59] And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, [60] And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Jesus’ dead body was placed in the tomb before 6 p.m. Friday night when the Sabbath began and all work stopped. His body remained in the tomb throughout the Sabbath.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week,
came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. [2] And, behold,
there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and
came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. [3] His countenance
was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: [4] And for fear of him the
keepers did shake, and became as dead men. [5] And the angel answered and said
unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. [6]
He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. [7]
And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he
goth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. [8] And they
departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring
his disciples word.

[9] And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail.
And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. [10] Then said Jesus
unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there
shall they see me.

[11] Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and
shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. [12] And when they were
assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the
soldiers, [13] Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while
we slept.

Early in the morning, women went to the tomb and found that the stone, closing the
tomb’s entrance, had been rolled back. An angel told them Jesus was alive and gave
them a message. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden, to Peter, and to two
disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all the disciples but Thomas.

OUR LORD’S GRAND ENTRANCE TO JERUSALEM (Sunday Of Jesus’ Last
Week)

The word “Messiah” has long been considered in Jewish and Christian circles. The basic
definition of “Messiah” is “the anointed One.” Hundreds of years before Christ, Isaiah
prophesied about Messiah: Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because
the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to
bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the
prison to them that are bound...

Jesus Himself claimed to be the anointed One while preaching in the synagogue in Nazareth.
Luke 4:16-21 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his
custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.
[17] And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, [18] The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. [20] And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. [21] And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Jesus made it abundantly clear on this day as He rode into Jerusalem that He was the One of whom Isaiah wrote.

Closely related to the prophetic aspect of Messiah is Jesus’ political significance. He will destroy the world powers in an act of divine judgment, deliver Israel from any and all enemies, and bring total national restoration to the Holy Land. He will put an end to war because He is the Prince of Peace. And perhaps most important, Jesus Messiah Christ is the One and only Intermediary between fallen mankind and God Himself.

The Significant Week During Which Jesus Rode Into The Holy City

This was Passover week when the Jewish people celebrated God’s miraculous deliverance of Israel under the leadership of Moses. (Passover remembers the infamous night the Death Angel flew over the Land of the Nile – homes with blood daubed on their doorposts were “passed over by the Grim Angel.”) During the annual Passover time,
religious fervor was high!

The Significant Mount From Which Jesus Rode Into Jerusalem

On the previous page you will find a picture of the Mount of Olives. The picture is taken west of the Kidron Valley looking east to the Mount (more a ridge than a “mount.”) In the center foreground you find a church, surrounded by olive trees - the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the Church of the Agony, erected over the believed rock where Jesus prayed “Not My Will, Thine Be Done.” The “grayish” hills to the right of the picture are a massive Jewish graveyard. It was from this summit that Jesus ascended back to Heaven (Acts 1) and to which He will gloriously return at His Second Coming: Zech. 14:3-9

Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. [4] And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. [5] And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. [6] And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: [7] But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. [8] And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. [9] And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

This Mount of Olives always held Messianic implications! Ezekiel prophesied about it hundreds of years earlier, when the Glory of God exited the Temple: Ezekiel 11:23

And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city. That’s the Mount of Olives. This marked the departure of the Shekinah (earthy glory of God) from the Holy City. But then Ezekiel added the great culmination when the glory would return: Ezekiel 43:1-3

Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: [2] And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. [3] And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. This passage is a sharp rebuke to anyone foolish enough to think Jerusalem is only some historic city with no future.
Thus the people of Jesus’ day knew that when Messiah came to deliver them, He would
descend from ... the Mount of Olives. And as we know from Acts 1 and Zechariah 14,
when Jesus returns in all His glory to rule the earth during the 1000-year Millennium, He
will once again “touch down” on the Mount of Olives.

But What About The “Tethered Colt?”

Luke 19:28-34

And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem. [29]
And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the
mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, [30] Saying, Go ye into
the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied,
whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither. [31] And if any man
ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath
need of him. [32] And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had
said unto them. [33] And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto
them, Why loose ye the colt? [34] And they said, The Lord hath need of him.

There are two little towns on the far ridge of the Mount of Olives - Bethany, the home of
Lazarus, Mary and Martha, and Bethphage. Jesus wanted two of His disciples to go to
Bethphage where they would find a donkey tethered - or tied. It was essential that Jesus
ride into Jerusalem (the triumphant entry) on that particular animal. Why?

For that we go back to Genesis 49. (From Luke 19 to Genesis 49 – Incredible!
Remember the story of Jesus takes all 66 books of the Bible. In the Genesis reference,
an old man, Jacob, was near death. He gathered his sons around him (the 12 for whom
the Israeli tribes are named, Judah, Issachar, Benjamin, etc. Jacob prophesied to them
about their future and descendants. Of particular interest is his prophecy about Judah,
one of those sons, and King David (who would come from Judah’s lineage – have you
ever heard the old chorus, The Lion of Judah Shall Break Every Chain? Here was
Judah’s astounding prophecy about Jesus centuries before it actually happened:

Genesis 49:10-11

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. [11] Binding
his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments
in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: (Shiloh means “He Who has the right
to reign!”)

That Jesus would descend from the Mount of Olives riding on a colt that had been tied up
in Bethphage, would have profound significance on the Jews of that day. The fact that
the animal had never been ridden was a factor here because animals that were meant for
sacred or royal use were not used for the normal day-to-day need of its owner but were set
apart for greater purpose. This young donkey had been set apart by God for the single
and noble purpose of carrying the Messiah into Jerusalem on this first day of Passover.

The Multitudes Begin To Understand Who Jesus Really Was (And Is)

Luke 19:35
And they brought him (the donkey) to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon
the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

By lifting Jesus to the back of the donkey, the people were, in effect, proclaiming Him as
King. Throughout Scripture we read of similar acts: 1 Kings 1:38-40 So Zadok the
priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the
Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king
David's mule, and brought him to Gihon (the spring just south of Jerusalem). [39] And
Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon.
And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. [40]
And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced
with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

So this precedence had already been established: King Solomon came to his own
coronation astride a donkey. Why not a horse? When a king rose into town on a horse
it signaled some degree of military activity and victory. The donkey was used for civil
ceremonies and peaceful events. By choosing a donkey rather than a horse, Jesus
showed the people He was coming in PEACE. It should have been obvious then that the
Lord was not arriving in Jerusalem to overthrow the Roman rule.

Yet another scriptural insight into why Jesus rose a donkey: Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly,
O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto
thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt
the foal of an ass. Zechariah prophesied four centuries before it happened that Jesus
would ride into the Holy City on that animal. The disciples were somewhat perplexed
about this, according to John: 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.

In Luke 19, we learn that the multitudes threw their coats on the ground as the Lord
Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. [36]
And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. This had occurred before with
another Jewish King: 2 Kings 9:13  Then they hasted, and took every man his
garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets,
saying, Jehu is king. By throwing their coats on the ground before Jesus, the people
were demonstrating their awe, their respect, for Him. It also demonstrated submission to
the king, their willingness to bow before the Ruler and even give their possessions to
Him.

Praise!

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the
whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice
for all the mighty works that they had seen; [38] Saying, Blessed be the King that
cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

The Psalmist in a way predicted this outpouring of praise to Messiah: Psalm 118:24-26
This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. [25] Save
now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. [26]
Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the
house of the Lord.

The late Robert Schuller used to open the Sunday worship service at the Crystal Cathedral
in Los Angeles by throwing wide his hands and crying out to the huge attendance - both
in the cathedral and by television, “This is the day the Lord hath made! Let us rejoice
and be glad in it!” Psalm 22:3  But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises
of Israel.  This is why we open our weekend services with praises to the Lord.

Jesus presented Himself as Messiah at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowds
responded wholeheartedly to Him and He warmly accepted the praises of the people.

But...that was Sunday.  And Friday was coming!

The Pharisees Unhappiness at Jesus’ Arrival

Luke 19:39
And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master,
rebuke thy disciples.

Yes, they called Jesus, “Master.” But they certainly did not mean it. Listen - these
religious zealots fully understood the whole concept of Jesus’ triumphant entry into
Jerusalem. They understood it - but they certainly did not accept it.
Jesus’ response to the Pharisees was to affirm what His worshipers were doing: Luke 19:40 *And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

What did He mean by that? I believe it meant that Jesus is worthy of all our praise – and, if we don’t give it to Him, God will find some other method, even if it means making His creation praise Him.

Years ago, our friends Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote a tremendous praise song:

*Lets just praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*
*Lets just lift our hands to Heaven and praise the Lord!*

*Amen and Amen!*

Next week: The Passion Week Of Jesus Begins In Jerusalem