



**Palm Sunday:**  
**The Arrival of the Messiah**  
(Luke 19:28-40 ESV)

# Luke 19:28-40 ESV

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"

<sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it."

# Luke 19:28-40 ESV

<sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

**A Question of Identity**

**Who is this Jesus?**

# I. Prophecies of the Coming of the Messiah

- **Zechariah's prophecy of the future** (c. 520 B.C.)
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
    Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
    righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
    on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

## II. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah



## II. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- **Only John's gospel identifies the branches as palm branches**
- The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took **branches of palm trees** and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:12-13a)

## II. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38)
- **Connections to the Old Testament:**
- Save us, we pray, O LORD! . . . Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Psalm 118:25,26)

## II. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- **But the crowd expects a military Messiah:**
- <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, **even the King of Israel!**” (John 12:13)
- **A reenactment of when the Israelites drove out their occupiers in 161 B.C.**
- “When **Simon Maccabee** drove Israel’s enemies out of Jerusalem, people celebrated by waving palm branches: ‘On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the one hundred seventy-first year, the Jews entered it **with praise and palm branches**, and with harps and cymbals and stringed instruments, and with hymns and songs, because a great enemy had been crushed and removed from Israel’ (1 Maccabees 13:51 NRSV)” [Esau McCaulley *Christianity Today*].

### III. “Unseeing” the Arrival of the Messiah

- **Religious leaders refuse to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah:**
- And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “**Teacher [“Rabbi”]**, rebuke your disciples.” (Luke 19:39)
  
- **The disciples had also been slow to recognize Jesus as the Messiah:**
- Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. . . <sup>16</sup> And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? **Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?** <sup>18</sup> **Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear?** And do you not remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” (Mark 8:14-19)

## IV. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity

- He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the very stones would cry out.” (Luke 19:40)
- **Jesus is better than a military leader:**
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
    Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, **your king is coming to you;**  
    righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
    on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

## IV. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity

- **Awareness** of Christ’s Presence
- **Recognition** that Jesus is the promised Messiah
- **Commitment** to Jesus as Savior and Lord

## IV. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity

- **The opportunity and time for salvation is now!**

<sup>20</sup> We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>2</sup> For he says . . . Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; 6:2)

**Let Us Pray**

