

Hosanna!

*Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:*

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”*

*Hosanna in the highest! —Matthew 21:9*

When we think of Jesus' ministry, we realize that the Triumphal Entry was the only time that Jesus purposefully planned a public display. He usually walked humbly from place to place but His entrance into Jerusalem was different. On this day, He sent His disciples to retrieve the donkey so that He entered publicly in triumph.

His followers may not have understood why He was coming to Jerusalem. They did not realize that would be the Passover lamb. He was the blameless Son of God whose sacrifice would pay for their sins. They did not anticipate the crucifixion. Nevertheless, they prepared the way.

They proclaimed Jesus Lord in both word and actions. They showed they received Jesus as their king by laying palm branches in the road. Palm branches were an important image to the Jews. It represented freedom from the oppressor. Jesus had not come to free them from the oppression of Rome, but from the oppression of sin.

The crowd hailed Him with shouts of “Hosanna”, which means “save us now”. They quoted Psalm 118:25-26 to publicly proclaim Jesus as the one who could save them.

This was an unusual scene. Something was about to happen. Some were hailing the Messiah as King and as LORD while others were seeking to stop Him. Jesus was purposeful in entering Jerusalem. He was coming in mercy and grace to triumph over sin and death and hell. “HOSANNA! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.”