

## ***How Can We Solve Today's Problems?***

### ***International Bible Lessons***

**Mark 11:1-11**

**Sunday, April 17, 2011**

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*“Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’”* (Mark 11:9—NRSV).

*“Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: ‘Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD’”* (Mark 11:9—NASB-U).

*“And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”* (Mark 11:9—KJV).

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowd praised God and welcomed Jesus as the Messiah (or King) that God had promised to send someday. They waved Palm branches, much as sports fans wave flags to cheer their team to victory. They spread their cloaks and leafy branches on the road to honor Jesus as He rode His borrowed colt, much as people roll out the red carpet for movie stars. When the crowd shouted “Hosanna,” they prayed to God and told Jesus, “Save Us Now!” Because of Jesus’ many miracles and teaching with authority, they believed He came “in the name of the Lord” to save them from the political oppression of the Romans and restore the kingdom of David. Later, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, they learned that He not only came in the name of the Lord, but also was both “Lord and Savior” (2 Peter 1:11; 2:20).

Even today, many seek political solutions to their problems and the problems of the world, but the solution for many of these problems is moral. For this reason, Jesus came to teach the truth about God and right living, to die and rise again from the dead to save people from their sins, and to send the Holy Spirit into His followers so they could follow the highest ethical principles of love for God, others, and themselves. By trusting Jesus and following Him today, people can live with “love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). In this way, they will be ready when He returns.

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## Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God wants us to do some things that He could easily do all by Himself?
2. What are some of the things that God expects us to do?
3. What qualities do you think God considers in a person prior to asking them to do something as important as borrowing a colt for Jesus?
4. What qualities do you think an employer considers before hiring a worker? What different qualities might a church consider in a person before ordaining them as an elder or hiring them as a minister? How do these qualities differ?
5. How can you tell whether or not someone is coming in the name of the Lord?