

When the King Brings Peace

International Bible Lesson

Mark 11:1-11

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“Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest” (Mark 11:10—KJV).

“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Mark 11:10—NRSV).

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on what has become known as Palm Sunday, He proclaimed that He was the long-expected Messiah, the one who would reign forever as a descendant of King David, Israel’s most famous king. The Jews expected Jesus to defeat the Romans as King David had defeated the Philistines and all of the other enemies that surrounded them. They expected Jesus to bring them the peace and prosperity that they had known under the reign of King David; after all, Jesus had fed more than 5,000 people at one time using a little boy’s scant lunch. However, Jesus came for the first time to accomplish a far more important task for the whole world, which included Jews, Romans, and everyone else for centuries to come. Jesus came to accomplish a divine mission that would result in eternal life for all who would believe in Him. Because God loves the world, Jesus came to suffer in the place of all those who deserve God’s just punishment; so God could be merciful and just at the same time when as King of the universe He forgives sinners and rebels; so God could win the love of repentant sinners, who would love to obey Him forevermore. Jesus entered Jerusalem so He could die a sacrificial death on Good Friday and rise from the dead on Easter Sunday. Jesus accomplished more in a week than anyone expected, and our world is a better place because many people have learned to love one another as God has loved us. When Jesus returns someday, the whole world will live in peace and prosperity of under the dominion of King Jesus.

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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?