

**The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

Passages: Mt 21:1–11; Mk 11:1–11; Lk 19:28–44; Jn 12:12–19

*Memory Verse*

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Jesus, the Messiah, entered Jerusalem on a colt, affirming His royalty as well as His humility.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is our King.</li><li>2. God is just, and He brings salvation.</li><li>3. God is lowly and gentle.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Act as His witness.</li><li>2. Be sanctified and ready to be used by God.</li><li>3. Exhibit gentleness in words and in actions.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Jesus Is Omniscient
- B. Jesus Is King
- C. Jesus Is Lowly, Just, and Has Salvation

**Life Application: The Lord Has Need of You!**

1. God wants us to be His witnesses
2. God wants us to be gentle and humble

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** When Jesus Christ was on earth, He served with lowliness and gentleness. He will return again, and when He comes, He will come with great power.

## Spiritual Teachings

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### The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:1–11)

*“Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

(Mt 21:5)

The triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem has been recorded in each of the four gospels (Mk 11:1–10; Lk 19:29–38; Jn 12:1–16). This triumphal entry was a beautiful contrast to the death that Jesus would suffer in a week’s time. The entry portrayed Him as the King of peace, the Son of David.

#### A. Jesus Is Omniscient (Mt 21:1–6 – The Preparation)

Let us first turn to Matthew 21:1–6. (*Note:* Matthew mentions Bethphage, a place that can no longer be found. It was located on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives, close to Bethany, near Jerusalem.)

This passage demonstrates Jesus’ omniscience and authority. Everything had been planned—Jesus knew the location of the animals and what the disciples needed to say. The disciples needed only to respond in faith. But why is this event such a miracle?

1. The disciples found the colt, just as the Lord had predicted.
2. The owner of the colt agreed to lend him to Jesus.
3. The colt, which no one had ever sat on, was obedient instead of unruly (*BSG: Luke, 7.1:1*).<sup>1</sup>

#### B. Jesus Is King (Mt 21:7–11 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem)

Let us continue by reading Matthew 21:7–11.

Upon entering Jerusalem, a huge crowd surrounded Jesus and another large crowd went before Him (Mt 21:9). They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Mt 21:9). They honored Jesus as King by laying down their garments before Him and cutting large palm tree branches to spread along the road.

### Understanding *Messiah*

Messiah means “anointed one” in Hebrew. God told Abraham that all the world would be blessed through his descendants (Gen 12:1–3), and He told David that He would set up a seed after him and establish his house and kingdom forever (2 Sam 7:12). The Israelites placed their faith in these promises, hoping for a strong political Messiah to free them, as Isaiah had prophesied: “And it will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this *is* our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (Isa 25:9).

#### C. Jesus Is Lowly, Just, and Has Salvation

Let us read Zechariah 9:9.

#### God Is Just

Being just means hating oppression, cheating, and all forms of mistreatment. God is fair, and one day, He will judge the world and each person in it. Since He is just, all-knowing, ever-present, and all-powerful, He clearly sees every heart, thought, and intent. Isaiah 30:18 names Him as a “God of justice,”

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, “Ministry in Jerusalem”, *Bible Study Guide: Luke* (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/luke-27/](https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/luke-27/), 7.1:1.

and Deuteronomy 32:4 teaches us that “all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.”

### God Has Salvation

God is not only just, but also full of love, mercy, and grace. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). He is a God of mercy who provided a way for us to be saved: He gave us His son to die on the cross for our sins. If we are willing to receive salvation, all He requires of us is to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior by faith and trust in Him. Then, He will give us the right to become His children (Jn 1:12).

Steps to Receive Salvation
1. Recognize our sinfulness, the consequence of which is eternal separation from God (Rom 6:23), and that we fall short of His glory (Rom 3:23).
2. Ask God for forgiveness of sins and be willing to turn from our sins (1 Jn 1:9).
3. Believe that He died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:45–47), granting us salvation not by our works, but by our faith in God’s grace (Eph 2:8).
4. Receive water baptism to wash away our sins (Acts 2:38).
5. Pray for the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
6. Keep His commandments and live a godly life (Eccl 12:13; 1 Jn 5:3).

### Life Application

#### The Lord Has Need of You!

“And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them” (Mt 21:3).

Just as the colt was used by Jesus to demonstrate His power and His kingship, we too can be used by God for His purpose.

#### 1. God wants us to be His witnesses

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8) by shining His light and preaching the gospel. God wants everyone to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4). Every soul is precious and valuable to Him, so we must also care for those God has placed in our lives. Romans 10:14–15 says:

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

The Lord has need of you!

#### How can God use us?

- **God seeks to equip us through His word**

In order to be used by God, we must study His word and “meditate in it day and night” (Josh 1:8). To meditate means to contemplate and to internalize.

- **God requests us to be set apart**

The colt Jesus chose had never been ridden by another. Likewise, God wants us to be set apart by being cleansed and pursuing after holiness. Paul tells us that there are different kinds of vessels, and vessels that are cleansed are three things: sanctified, useful for the Master, and prepared for every good work (2 Tim 2:20–21). We need to sanctify ourselves by living a holy life separate from the world.

- **God wants us to rely on Him**

God told Joshua to “be strong and very courageous” (Josh 1:7) because He knew Joshua was afraid. In order to be strong and courageous, we must rely on God through prayer.

It is a great honor to be used by God. You do not need to possess great talent, but need only to equip yourself with God’s word, cleanse yourself, care about witnessing to others, and rely on Him fully.

## **2. God wants us to be gentle and humble**

Jesus is the best example of one who is gentle and lowly in heart. He even calls everyone to Him in Matthew 11:28, offering rest that is not a physical rest, but a spiritual one that gives us peace in our hearts, minds, and souls. How can we be gentle and humble like Jesus?

### **Everyone has imperfections. How can we be gentle and humble?**

- **Gentle in Our Words (Prov 15:1)**

Instead of countering unkindness with harsh words, speak gentle words. The Bible teaches us to be patient with one another by being humble and gentle (Eph 4:2). Conflicts may be unavoidable, but destruction is optional. When we are upset or frustrated, remember James 1:19: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

A relationship can be built up or torn apart depending on the words we speak. Apostle James teaches us that our tongues are an “unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (Jas 3:8). How can we praise God with the same tongue we use to curse or mock others? Taming our tongues is a challenge we can only overcome if we rely on God. Therefore, say a daily prayer if you have a hard time taming your tongue: “Dear God, please help me control what I say; guard my lips, but most importantly, guard my heart” (Ps 141:3; Prov 4:23).

- **Gentle in Our Actions (1 Thess 2:7)**

Jesus is all-powerful, but He was always gentle, kind, and loving.

Paul once shared how he treated others: “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children” (1 Thess 2:7). A gentle person is a strong person, who speaks the truth with all lowliness. In fact, all genuine followers of God should be distinguished by being gentle in all that they do.

The only way for us to exhibit gentleness is to walk in the Spirit, for gentleness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22–23) and is closely related to love, kindness, and self-control. By being filled with the Holy Spirit, we are able to be far gentler than we could ever be without it. The more we walk in the Spirit, the more we can overcome the ugly tendencies of our flesh. A gentle person can even help someone who is caught in sin (Gal 6:1).

- **Gentle in Our Witness (1 Pet 3:15)**

The Bible teaches that to whomever we witness, we must witness with gentleness and respect. “Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet 3:15). We must be ready to give a defense, but do it with gentleness and with fear.

People all around us are looking for living proof that God is real and that He exists. “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart” (2 Cor 3:2–3).

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. How does Jesus’ preparation to enter Jerusalem demonstrate His omniscience and His authority?** He knew where the animals were located. Furthermore, He knew that if the disciples said the Lord had need of them, then the animals would be given to them.
- 2. Why did Jesus want to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?** To fulfill the prophecy written in the Old Testament in Zechariah 9:9.
- 3. How was Jesus greeted as He rode into Jerusalem?** Upon entering Jerusalem, a huge crowd surrounded Jesus and another large crowd went before Him (Mt 21:9). They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Mt 21:9). They honored Jesus as King by laying down their garments before Him and cutting large palm tree branches to spread along the road.
- 4. What does it mean to be lowly? What does it mean to be just?** To be lowly means to be humble and free of pride. Being just means hating oppression, cheating, and all forms of mistreatment.
- 5. What are the four ways God prepares us for His use?** He equips us with His word, asks us to be set apart from the world, wants us to be concerned about witnessing, and desires for us to rely on Him.
- 6. In what three ways can we be gentle and humble?** In our words, our actions, and our witness—when we speak to others about our hope in God.

### *Memory Verse*

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“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9b)

### **Meaning**

#### *Hosanna*

A Hebrew word meaning “save, please” or “grant salvation,” which can be found in Psalm 118:25. Therefore, “Hosanna” means “salvation is coming.” The crowds recognized Jesus Christ as the heir of David, the promised Messiah.

#### *Son of David*

This phrase was often used in the New Testament to refer to Jesus Christ, and He never denied that He was the Son of David. God had promised David, the king of Israel, that his throne would be established forever (2 Sam 7:12–13), and when we examine Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3, we can find the genealogical evidence that Jesus was a direct descendant of Abraham and David through Joseph, His earthly father.

As He rode through Jerusalem on the donkey, Jesus received praises from the crowd welcoming Him as King. Jesus was the Son of God, who came to save us all from eternal condemnation, and as such, was

worthy of such a welcome. We should give our adoration and praise to Jesus Christ, as He indeed is our King, granting us eternal life.

### *Conclusion*

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Jesus is indeed the Messiah. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, to deliver us all from eternal condemnation. He prophesied that He would die and rise again (Mt 16:21), and afterward, sit on David's throne (Mt 19:28). When He was on earth, He served with lowliness and gentleness (Mt 20:25–28). Thus, we must do the same by relying on the Holy Spirit so that we can be filled with gentleness and holiness to serve God as vessels for Him.

## Lesson 7 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the meanings of “Hosanna” and “the Son of David”?  
*“Hosanna” is a word of both praise and petition meaning “salvation is coming.” “Son of David” affirms Jesus’ identity as both a descendent of King David, as well as the messianic King who brings us salvation and is deserving of our praise.*
2. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?  
*The instructions He gave to His disciples and the colt’s obedience proved Jesus’ authority, but at the same time showed Jesus’ humility; a worldly king would never ride on a donkey. In addition, Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy written in Zechariah 9:9.*
3. What did the people use to greet Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? Why?  
*They used palm branches to greet Him, laying them on the ground before Him. These signified their acceptance and recognition of Jesus as King, not just any man.*
4. What does it mean to be lowly? How was Jesus gentle and lowly?  
*To be lowly means to be humble and gentle. It means to have an absence of pride. Jesus showed these qualities by making Himself accessible to all, not just the rich or the powerful. He sought out the sinners, the poor, and the sick, and He welcomed the little children. He made it clear that He was here to serve, not to be served.*
5. What does Paul teach us about being vessels for God in 2 Timothy 2:21?  
*We need to set ourselves apart and keep ourselves clean. Only by being clean can we be sanctified, useful for the Master, and used for good works.*
6. How can we become a better vessel for God in our daily lives? What can we improve at home? At school?  
*Personal answers.*