



## Lesson 20: *Palm Sunday* (Condensed Version)

### Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem as was prophesied long ago by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9)
- Some people and some Jewish leaders did not realize that the triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus was in fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures, therefore they did not see that Jesus was God's Forever King
- People shouted "Hosanna" which means "save us now" and spread palm branches on the road before Jesus

### "I Wonder" Questions:

What do you see in this picture? (Jesus riding on a donkey, crowds, palm branches)

I wonder why Jesus is riding on a donkey.

I wonder why the people are waving palm branches. I wonder why some people look unhappy. (point to Pharisee)

I wonder where Jesus is going.

Let's find out more in our story...

**Lesson Summary:** In today's story we hear about many people who were waving palm branches and singing praises to Jesus. He was coming into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The people were excited to see Jesus because they had seen and heard about many of his wonderful miracles, even the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead.

The time was coming close when Jesus knew he was to die. To show the people that he was their promised Messiah, the Forever King, Jesus had something special to do. When he went into Jerusalem this time, he sent his disciples to bring him a colt and then he rode the colt into the city for all to see. Jesus did this to fulfill the Scripture in Zechariah that says, "Your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt, the colt of a donkey." People sang praises of "Hosanna" and threw down their cloaks and palm branches onto the ground as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. However, many of the Jewish leaders despised Jesus and didn't want anyone to follow him or believe in him. They planned a way to kill Jesus. Even though Jesus' friends and disciples did not want this to happen to him, Jesus was not afraid to die for this was God's plan.

**Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (Jesus fulfills OT prophesies about the coming King. He wanted people to know what kind of a king he is. Jesus is gentle and humble. He foreknew what was going to happen. Jesus went willingly into Jerusalem to be crucified. He was not afraid. He was strong and wanted to follow his Father's plan)

- Where was Jesus going? What did Jesus ride on? Why did Jesus choose to ride a colt into Jerusalem? (to fulfill the prophesy in Zechariah and to show the people what kind of king he really is) Why were so many people excited to see Jesus? (they knew of his miracles) What words did they shout? (Praises, Hosanna) Do you think that people thought of Jesus as a king? (some did, some didn't)
- What kind of king did Jesus want the people to know him as? (the gentle and humble king, the one prophesied in Zechariah)
- What words of praise can we write on these paper palm branches? (Kind, gentle, humble, brave, Saviour, know the future)

### Bible Memory Verse:

"Your king is coming to you. He is gentle and riding on a colt." (Zechariah 9:9--NCV paraphrased)