



Lesson 20: *Palm Sunday* (Condensed)

Objectives: To explain that:

- Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem as was prophesied long ago by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9)
- People shouted "Hosanna" which means "God save us" and they spread palm branches on the road before Jesus, because they believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, they had been waiting for.
- Some people and some Jewish leaders did not believe 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

"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 Pharisees)

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 Hosanna, praises to God. Jesus was coming into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The people were excited to see Jesus because they believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, who they had been waiting for. The time was coming 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 on the colt into the city for all the people 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 because of his great love for people - for us.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about Jesus? (Jesus fulfills OT prophesies about the coming King. He wanted people to know that he is a gentle and humble king. He knew what was going to happen. Jesus willingly went into Jerusalem to be crucified. He was not afraid; he was strong)

- Where was Jesus going? (Jerusalem) What did Jesus ride on? (the colt of a donkey) Why did Jesus choose to ride a colt into Jerusalem? (to fulfill the prophesy in Zechariah and to show the people that he was a gentle and humble king) Why was everyone excited to see Jesus? (They believed he was the Forever King, the Messiah, who they had been waiting for) What words did they shout? (praises, Hosanna, which means "God save us") Were there any people who did not want Jesus as king? (yes, some of the Jewish leaders who did not believe in Jesus)
- What kind of a king is Jesus? (the gentle and humble king, the one prophesied in Zechariah)
- What words of praise can we give to Jesus? (eternal, kind, humble, powerful, holy, wise, good etc. Give the children paper palm branches to write these words of praise on)

Bible Memory Verse:

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