

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the live-stream message from Sappony Baptist Church in Stony Creek, Virginia. We are thankful that you have been able to join us this morning. We are looking forward to the day when we can resume meeting in person, but we are thankful that we have technology that allows us to connect with each other while still socially distancing. We hope and pray that you will be blessed by our message this morning. Please be sure to like and comment so that we know you've joined in. Audio of this sermon, along with sermon notes and information about our church will be available at sappony1773.org.

INVOCATION:

“Father of might and of mercy, if we have sinned, chasten us; if we are ignorant, enlighten us; if we are weak, sustain us; if we are lonely, comfort us. Prevent us from thinking that the words spoken in this service will exhaust all that you have to say to us. Keep us ever open to the truth that is yet to be told. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”¹

In the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

Matthew 21:1-11

- Welcome to Palm Sunday. For those who may not be aware, Palm Sunday is the day that we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Sunday, He enters into Jerusalem, Thursday He will observe Passover, Friday He will be crucified. Sunday, He is resurrected from the dead. Today, we concentrate on His entry into Jerusalem, where

¹ Roy Pearson. *Prayers for All Occasions*. (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1990). 8.

He went with the purpose of being the sacrifice for our sins. Today, we will examine the DONKEY'S SUBMISSION, the DIVINE SIGN, and the DISCIPLES' STREET-CLEARING.

- THE DONKEY'S SUBMISSION (Vs. 1-3)
 - When He came to Bethphage, he sent two disciples.
 - Bethphage "house of figs" was two miles from Jerusalem.
 - Jesus certainly COULD have walked but chose to make an entry. Previously He has concealed that He is the Messiah. Now He is declaring it loudly!
 - Some speculate that the two disciples were James and John, as a result of their request in Ch 20, but scripture does not say.
 - (Vs. 2) You will find a donkey and a colt.
 - Pre-arranged or predestined?
 - Doesn't really matter. He knew they would be available for His use.
 - (Vs. 3) The Lord needs them.
 - They were a necessary sign.
 - Jesus also knew exactly what was going to happen to Him, especially by going in this way.
- THE DIVINE SIGN (Vs. 4-5)
 - So what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled.
 - Zech 9:9
 - Matthew could present these verses as having been spoken by Jesus.
 - Note that he left out the commands to "rejoice" and "shout in triumph" This will happen at His return.
 - Why a prophecy about riding a donkey?
 - Until Solomon's time, nobles rode donkeys.

- When nobility got horses, then donkeys became beasts of burden.
 - It's hard to make war on a donkey.
- Mark 11:2 tells that no one ever sat on that donkey.
 - With a crowd of noisy people, one would expect an unriden donkey to be uncooperative. However, the donkey did just what Jesus wanted.
- Jesus, who has previously told his disciples to not tell anyone that He was the Messiah, was now going to visibly fulfill a prophecy that many would have recognized. His followers were beginning to recognize Him. Here, He was going to give them a confirmation.
- THE DISCIPLES' STREET-CLEARING (Vs. 8-11)
 - A very large crowd spread their robes on the road.
 - 2 Kings 9:13 shows men doing this when Jehu was anointed king.
 - In many cases, these robes would have been the most expensive thing that they owned.
 - Cutting branches and putting them on the road.
 - A sign of victory.
 - Shouting
 - "Hosanna"
 - Literally "save us"
 - Comes from Psalm 118:25-26
 - He will, but not in the way they think.
 - "to the Son of David"
 - Clearly a Messianic reference.
 - Luke 19:39-40 adds, "Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if

they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out.”

- (Vs. 10) The whole city was shaken
 - Who is this?
 - Crowds identified Him as “prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”
 - People still try to make Jesus less than He is.
 - A good teacher.
 - A prophet.
- If people had not seen all the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled up to this point, they certainly were seeing this one. Of course, riding in on a donkey was a deliberate act. He knew the meaning. Even if the general public did not understand the meaning of His entry in this manner, surely the religious leaders would have. The Romans likely would have thought it was silly. This is no way to usher in a Kingdom! But it’s how our Lord chose to do it. He was coming in as a King, but as the lowliest of Kings, serving the Most High God, and following His will. And He would do so even obeying the command to die on a cross to pay the price for our sins. Who will accept Christ as King today?

Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!

If you just prayed this prayer for the first time and are now a new believer, please let us know in the comments so that we can reach out to you to help you get started in your new life in Christ.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this week.
Amen!