

# A Reflection for Day 1 - Palm Sunday

## Matthew 21:1-11

### Palm Sunday

As we journey through Lent we have the opportunity to prepare for the great and wonderful season of Easter. But before racing ahead too quickly, we need time to step back and reflect on the events that led up to Easter, particularly those in the last week of Jesus' life on earth which is known as Holy Week. We're going to have a short reflection on some of the major events that took place in that week, accompanied by some Bible readings. Let's hear the story.

**21** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>'Say to Daughter Zion,  
"See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" <sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

‘Hosanna<sup>[b]</sup> to the Son of David!’

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’<sup>[c]</sup>

‘Hosanna<sup>[d]</sup> in the highest heaven!’

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

The story begins with Jesus riding into Jerusalem to join with his friends and thousands of others among God’s people to celebrate the Passover.

Although they were heading to join in a big celebration, Jesus knew that he was going to die in Jerusalem. But he still went there. He had told his friends that he was going to die, but they had found it hard to believe. They didn’t understand.

Jerusalem was full to bursting with happy, noisy crowds. Many of the people of Jerusalem came out to welcome Jesus as he arrived, riding on a donkey. He chose a humble animal to ride on, showing his own humility. The crowds waved palm branches and called ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’. Hosanna means ‘save us’ or ‘saviour’. Jesus was going to save them, but they didn’t really understand that yet. They were looking for a more militant messiah who would throw off the oppression of the Romans.

Do we perhaps misunderstand Jesus and want to mould him to fit our image of what a Saviour should be? If you have a palm cross handy you might like to reflect on that thought during the rest of Lent.