



### Growth Group Questions

March 24, 2024

“Preparing for the King”

#### Context

The “Passion” material in Mark 11-13 is really oriented around the temple in Jerusalem. This is probably Mark’s way of making sure people understand that Jesus supersedes the temple. All of the material in these three chapters is either located in or around the temple, or is related to the temple. Jesus should not be seen as a reformer of the temple, but instead as the fulfillment of the temple. He will replace the need for the sacrificial system that took place at the temple, as well as many other things.

Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of praise, but when he looks around the temple courts there is not much response. However, that will change by Mark 11:28 when there is strong opposition to his presence and the religious leaders question his authority.

The disciples and Jesus approach Jerusalem from the east. They depart from the Mount of Olives which is some 2600 feet above sea level (300 feet higher than Jerusalem). It had been a place of worship since before the time of David (2 Samuel 15:32). Ezekiel also had a vision about the glory of the Lord departing from Jerusalem and settling at the Mount of Olives.

The welcoming of a king with the spreading of cloaks and branches had happened before with King Jehu in 2 Kings 9:13. Hosanna literally means, “save, I pray.” The reference to the “coming kingdom of our father David” is not well known. It is possible this is another way of Mark letting his audience know that the crowd that greeted Jesus was still not certain who he was.

Riding a colt into Jerusalem brings back memories of Zechariah 9:9-10, but no one probably realized the significance of this moment. Once Jesus enters the city, he surveys the temple operation and then leaves for the evening. The crowd disperses and does not reappear the next morning when Jesus returns.



## **Scripture:**

### **Psalm 24:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.  
<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD Almighty—  
he is the King of glory.

### **Mark 11:1-11**

<sup>11</sup> As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

<sup>4</sup> They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup> some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup> They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. <sup>7</sup> When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!<sup>[a]</sup>”  
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”<sup>[b]</sup>  
<sup>10</sup> “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

### **Zechariah 9:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.  
He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea



and from the River<sup>[a]</sup> to the ends of the earth.

### **Mark 1:15**

<sup>15</sup>“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

### **Revelation 5:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

<sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign<sup>[a]</sup> on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”



**Questions:**

1. What is “glory”? What does it mean that Jesus is the King of Glory?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the King of Kings?
3. In Mark 11:1-11, we read of Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem for the Passover. Describe the crowd. What were they saying and doing?
4. How were the actions and words of the people accompanying Jesus so absolutely right, yet their expectations of Jesus so absolutely wrong?
5. What is the significance of Jesus’ choice to enter Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey?
6. Zechariah 9:9 says we are to “rejoice greatly” because our King has come to us righteous and victorious. What does it mean to you to “rejoice greatly”?
7. How can we best become the people of joy God wants us to be?
8. Pastor Paul said that Jesus wants His “message to go deep.” What does that mean to you? What can we do to go deeper with God?
9. A king is someone who has authority to rule or reign over a group of people. What does it mean that Jesus is the king of your life?
10. Pastor Paul said he recently heard another minister speak about the need to “praise our way through life.” What does this mean to you and how can we do this?

**Extra Credit:**

In the March 19<sup>th</sup> entry in Pastor Chad’s Lenten Devotional he asks us to picture what it would be like in the upper room with Jesus. What do you think it would have been like? How would you have felt having your feet washed by Jesus?

