

How Will YOU Receive Jesus?
Matthew 21:1-11

I. The Palm Sunday Journey of Jesus

A. From Peter's Confession to Bethany

1. Looks like a journey to Jerusalem for Passover but is so much more
 - a. Confession (Caesarea)
 - b. Transfiguration (Galilee)
 - c. Rich young ruler (Judea beyond Jordan)
 - d. John/James (on the way to Jerusalem)
 - e. Two blind men in Jericho
2. Jesus repeatedly informs His disciples He is going to Jerusalem
 - a. To suffer
 - b. To die
 - c. To be raised from the dead on the third day
 - (1) **Matthew 16:21 (ESV)** *From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.*
 - (2) **Matthew 17:9 (ESV)** *And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."*
 - (3) **Matthew 17:12 (ESV)** *But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands."*
 - (4) **Matthew 17:22-23 (ESV)** ²² *As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.*
 - (5) **Matthew 20:17-19 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."*
 - (6) **Matthew 20:28 (ESV)** *even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

B. The journey to Palm Sunday is more than a mere religious pilgrimage

1. Jesus is not going to Jerusalem just to eat the Passover lamb. He is going to Jerusalem to BE the Passover Lamb.

- a. **The Passover Lamb**
 - (1) Passover is the celebration of God's powerful, loving salvation of His people from slavery in Egypt
 - (2) In the last of the 10 plagues, God instructed Israel to kill a spotless, unblemished lamb and sprinkle its blood on the lintel and posts of their doors
 - (3) When he saw the blood of the lamb, the angel of death would pass over that home. Otherwise every firstborn in the home would die.
- b. **The Passover Picture**
 - (1) Bondage in Egypt picture of God's chosen people enslaved in sin
 - (2) Deliverance from Egypt picture of God's radical mercy through the blood of a sacrifice (Jesus)
 - (3) The lamb dies, sheds his blood, so those appointed to death need not die
2. **God sent His Son in love as a sacrifice for sin**
 - a. **John 3:16-17 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*
3. **God sent His Son to become sin for us**
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)** ²¹ *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - b. **1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*
4. **Christ came, in love, to take our place on our behalf**
 - a. **Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)** ⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
 - b. **Matthew 20:27-28 (ESV)** ²⁷ *and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

C. The Journey to Palm Sunday was an intentional commitment of love on God's part for you.

1. Jesus knows in Jerusalem He will suffer and die and be buried and rise from the dead as an expression of His love for you.
2. We call it "The Triumphal Entry" because of the temporary enthusiasm of

the crowd.

- a. Today they cry out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Tomorrow they will cry out, “Away with him. Crucify him.”
 - b. Today there is exaltation and honor. Tomorrow denunciation and death.
 - c. Today they lay their robes on the ground before Him with praise. Tomorrow they will strip him naked and hang him on the cross with ridicule and loathing.
 - d. Today they treat him like a king. Tomorrow they will kill him like a criminal.
 - e. Today they honor him with palms in their hands. Tomorrow they will drive spikes through the palms of his hands.
 - f. Today they think he lives to save them from the Romans. Tomorrow he will die to save them from their sins.
 - g. If there was a triumphal entry it was the night of his birth when angels sang and shepherds gathered at his manger bed. This, this is the doorway to death when sinners will gather at his cross with curses and angels will hide their faces in horror and wonder and awe at the grace of God in the death of His Son at the hands of the very ones for whom he gives his life.
3. God sends His Son to His own people but they do not receive him.
- a. **John 1:11 (ESV) *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.***
 - b. **John 1:12 (ESV) *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,***

II. How will YOU receive Jesus?

A. God keeps giving His Son

1. Christ comes to us in the gospel
2. Christ comes to us in the Spirit

B. How will you receive Jesus?

1. As the Pharisees who saw him as a threat to their own plans and position and power and prosperity?
2. As the fickle followers who tagged along as long as there was food, fun, and fantasia but who left quickly when the truth got tough and personal?
3. As the rich young ruler who wanted more but loved the world too much and Christ too little to leave the world?
4. As Stephen who put his faith in Christ and lived in faith to the very moment life was taken from him.

C. God sends His Son in love to show us love and draw us to love where love transforms us.

1. **Jesus keeps coming to your heart, inviting you to embrace him as Savior and as Lord.**
2. How will you receive Him today?