

## **PEACE AND GLORY**

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*Lesson: Luke 19:29-48*

Palm Sunday is the name of the day on which the Lord made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding into the city as an ancient Jewish king would have done on the colt of a donkey. Crowds of His disciples hailed Him, casting down their cloaks for Him to ride over and paving His way with palm leaves. They shouted as He came: "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" It was a day of triumph indeed—that last Sunday that the Lord would spend on earth.

Now did you notice that several things in the story were very much like what happened at the first Christmas, when the Lord was born on earth? You remember how the Wise Men came from the East to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"—and now the Lord's disciples were proclaiming Him their King. You remember what the angels sang to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace"? Now His disciples were saying, "Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." These things were very, very much alike, and it was right that they should have been, for what happened on Palm Sunday meant that the Lord had finished the work for which He had been born that first Christmas Day.

What the angels sang to the shepherds contained a wonderful promise: the Lord Himself had been born on earth to conquer the hells that were trying to keep people out of heaven. He had been born to teach people about heaven and what they have to do to get there. He had been born to make it possible for people to have spiritual or heavenly peace again, even while they lived on earth, if only they would first give glory to God in the highest. And now the disciples were telling the angels that the Lord's work was done. He had conquered the hells and had taught those who followed Him about heaven, and they had accepted Him as their King. Only after this had been done could the angels know peace of mind and happiness. So now, at last, the disciples could say, "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Yes, the disciples had accepted the Lord as their King. But it is true that they still did not know what kind of a king He would be. They did not understand that His was a heavenly kingdom, even though He had said to them, "My kingdom is not of this world," and even though now, as He entered Jerusalem, He went, not to the palace, but to the temple. He would be no earthly king, for earthly kings die, and that is the end of their kingship. The Lord would be the King of glory, the King of all angels and of all good people forever. No palace doors on earth, but rather the everlasting doors of heaven, would open to

receive Him. Evil people would still kill His body, but He would rise from the grave to become, not just an ordinary king, but King of kings and Lord of lords, the one, only God of heaven and earth.

Yes, evil people would take the Lord and put Him to death during the week after Palm Sunday, but for the disciples who loved Him and proclaimed Him King, He would still be King forever, even as He was that day. And that is why they could even then truly say to the angels, "Peace in heaven." They were telling the angels that they need not worry any longer. A few people had already made the Lord their King, and more people on earth would do so forever.

But you may wonder how the Lord becomes *your* King, and so, in the Heavenly Doctrines, the Lord has told us how. We will not see the Lord on this earth, sitting on a throne, dressed in royal robes. But He can become King of our hearts, and He does this through His law, His truths. He becomes our King when we obey His law, His Word. All of the Palm Sunday story tells us how this is done. Just as the disciples took their clothing and paved His way with it, so we must take the clothing of our minds and put it into His service. In other words, we must take everything good and true that we know and let Him rule over it, for when the teachings of His Word rule our hearts, then He is indeed our King.

Now, there is an interesting thing about the Lord our King. On earth there are lots of different kinds of government. In some countries, kingship is hereditary, that is, the oldest son becomes king because his father was. In other countries people elect their ruler; they choose him. He is not a king, but a president or prime minister. Now, where the Lord is concerned, we have to *choose* Him to be our *King*. We have to turn to Him, and ask Him to rule over us, for, only when we ask Him, will He do so.

Let us, then, choose the Lord to be our King by finding out the teachings of His Word and letting those teachings rule our lives. The angels whom the Lord sends to lead and guide us are constantly trying to get us to do this, for they know that only if we do so can we have real peace and happiness. That is what they mean when they say: "Peace on earth." And since the angels can have peace and happiness only when they can make us happy, therefore, when we choose the Lord to be our King, we can turn to them and say: "Peace in heaven." *Amen.*