



Lesson Overview

1. Jesus' Ministry

How long did Jesus live on earth? When did His triumphal entry take place?

2. Watch a Video

Watch *Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem* at bitly.com/JesusRidesIntoJerusalem (2min 41sec).

3. Read & Discuss

Our Lord and King.

New Church Concept

Palm Sunday

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.... Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth... Psalm 47:1,2,6-7

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True.... His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns.... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11,12,16.

Palm Sunday

FaithBuilder 1 | Lesson 24 | Easter

Jesus' Ministry

Choose questions to prompt thinking about Jesus' life and ministry.

1. The Old Testament prophesied that a Messiah would come. Jews waited for a Messiah for hundreds of years. What were they expecting Him to do? (Restore the Jewish nation to the glory it enjoyed under King Solomon.)
2. Did Jews recognize Jesus as the expected Messiah? (Some did; most didn't)
3. For how long did the Lord God Jesus Christ stay on earth? (33+ years)
4. Jesus began his ministry when he was about thirty years old. How long did His ministry last? (3+ years)
5. What was Jesus' most amazing miracle? (Raising Lazarus after four days in the tomb.)
6. What did the miracle bring to light? (Jesus had power over life itself.)
7. Why might such a powerful miracle bring people to Jesus, as well as make them hate Him?
8. According to the Gospel of John, many followed the Lord after He raised Lazarus, and almost immediately He entered triumphantly into Jerusalem. In what way might these two events be connected?
9. In the Gospel of Mark Jesus' triumphal entry occurs before the Passover ("last supper")—Jesus' last meal with His disciples. How close are these events to the end of Jesus' life? (About a week.)

Watch a Video

Watch *Jesus Rides into Jerusalem* at bitly.com/JesusRidesIntoJerusalem (2min 41sec). (Enter link in web browser search bar at the top of your screen.). Note: This video, intended for children, tells the story of Palm Sunday from Mark 11.

Our Lord and King

Adapted from a talk by Rev. Norbert Rogers

Easter celebrates the miracle of the Lord rising from the sepulcher. Just the Friday before that, Good Friday, people had seized the Lord, falsely condemned Him, and crucified Him like a criminal. But the Lord Himself did not die. He rose again on the third day as He had promised. As the living God in Human form His power was so great that no evil could harm Him; He could rule over heaven and earth.

That the Lord had power to rule—that He was a triumphant king—was prophesied by the events which took place just a week before. On Palm Sunday the Lord sent two disciples into a village to bring Him a donkey and her colt. When they brought the donkeys to Him the disciples spread their clothes as a saddle for the Lord to sit on, and the Lord rode on the donkey into Jerusalem.

When people saw Jesus riding on a donkey they rejoiced! From ancient times, riding on a donkey was a sign of being a judge and king. They thought the Lord was about to proclaim Himself king and raise an army to drive the Romans and other Jewish enemies out of Israel, restoring Israel's power. So they laid their garments on the road, cut down branches to waive, and sang "Hosanna" to welcome Jesus as if he had conquered in battle as a king, and the Lord entered Jerusalem in triumph.

In a way, the Lord's triumphant ride into Jerusalem as king was a prophecy that was fulfilled at His resurrection on Easter morning. For although the Lord rules the universe, keeping all things in perfect order, His Kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is the Kingdom of Heaven—the Kingdom of hearts and minds. The Lord does not force anyone to enter into His kingdom; He does not force His rule upon anyone. We must choose to be ruled by Him, to be protected from spiritual enemies by His loving power. We must go out to seek Him as He comes to us—even as the people of Jerusalem went out to seek the Lord on Palm Sunday.

Just as the Lord came to the people of Jerusalem on a donkey, He comes to us through good and true ideas in the Word. And just as the people of Jerusalem welcomed the Lord as king, we must willingly make a way for Him to enter our hearts and minds by offering our faith and love to Him, by letting Him see the things we believe in and love. We do this when we compare the things we believe and love with what the Word teaches, and willingly change what we believe and love so it agrees with the Word's teachings.

Discussion

Choose questions for discussion.

1. What can we lay before the Lord to welcome Him as our King?
2. People humbled themselves before the Lord by removing their clothes. What do we need to take off in order to humble ourselves before the Lord?
3. Why is it important to picture the Lord as He was on Palm Sunday? Would we think of Him differently if this event had not taken place?
4. If we can only find true happiness by following the Lord, why doesn't the Lord *make us* accept Him in our lives?
5. Simple believers bowed before the Lord. But at the same time many did not accept Him, and were plotting to put Him to death. What attitudes in ourselves prevent us from accepting the Lord as our Savior and King?
6. "Hosanna" means "Save us now we pray." The Lord alone can save us from our spiritual enemies. Why must we *ask* the Lord to save us? If He loves us all, why does He make us ask for help?
7. The crowds bowed before the Lord—just as we kneel before the Lord in church. Are we worshiping the Lord by attending church? Does worship also involve the feelings in our hearts and what we do with our lives?
8. "Palms" mean true ideas that become the good of life. What true ideas do you lift up in your life by acting on them?

New Church Concepts

Submitting to the King

By "King" in the Word is meant the Lord in respect to Divine truth. *Apocalypse Explained* 31.3

In order that He may make a man blessed and happy, the Lord wills a total submission, that is, that a person be not partly his own and partly the Lord's, for then there are two lords, which no one can serve at the same time. *Arcana Coelestia* 6138.2

The disciples praised God, saying, Blessed is the King that cometh in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest (Luke 19:37-38). These things were said by the disciples when the Lord went to Jerusalem, that He might there, by the passion of the cross, which was His last temptation, wholly unite His Human to His Divine, and might also entirely subjugate the hells; and as all Divine good and truth would then proceed from Him, they say, "Blessed is the King that cometh in the name of the Lord," which signified acknowledgment, glorification, and thanksgiving that these things were from Him. "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest" signifies that the things meant by "peace" are from the union of the Divine Itself and the Divine Human, and that thence angels and men have them by conjunction with the Lord; for when the hells had been subjugated by the Lord, peace was established in heaven, and then those who were there had Divine truth from the Lord, which is "glory in the highest." *Apocalypse Explained* 365.11