

## Connection to Mark 11:1–12:44

Jesus affirms His authority for calling believers to trust in God completely and to express it in pure worship.

## Introduction/Opening

Here comes the parade! Most of us love a good parade. We watch as bands, floats, and fire trucks pass. We cheer as each entry passes, waiting for the final parade participant which is usually the main attraction.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on what has come to be called Palm Sunday, His entrance may have resembled something like an impromptu parade. Of course, it wasn't an official parade, but it was more like a spontaneous celebration. By describing Jesus' entrance into the city at Passover, Mark called attention once more to the authority of Jesus.

Jesus' entrance and the celebration that swirled around it continues to garner our attention and for good reason. The message about the authority of Jesus still rings true!

## Outline

### 1. The symbol of His authority (1-6)

#### a) A donkey colt (2)

In Jesus' day, a donkey symbolized what people desired: peace. When a king rode a donkey, he signified that he was going in peace. By contrast, the king indicated that he would be doing battle if he rode a horse. By riding a donkey colt, Jesus fulfilled the prophesy about the Messiah (Zech. 9:9). Jesus the Messiah brings peace.

#### b) The Lord (3)

Jesus unveiled His authority in His instruction to His disciples about securing the colt. Notice that Jesus referred to Himself as "the Lord" as He directed His disciples about what to say as they brought the colt to Him. With the title, Jesus declared His absolute authority.

### 2. The display of His authority (7-8)

#### a) The coats (7-8)

Jesus' disciples placed their coats on the donkey colt, and Jesus rode it into the city. Then the bystanders placed their coats on the road. In so doing, they displayed an awareness that Jesus had authority. In 2 Kings 9:13, people responded to Jehu's presence with a similar display of submission to royalty. Jesus' presence calls for a response to His authority.

b) The branches (8)

They placed branches on the ground as Jesus approached. With the branches, they underscored their notice of His arrival. Their action showed that they welcomed Jesus into the city. Throughout the centuries, Jesus has been greeted in a variety of ways. Welcoming Him with open arms and a glad heart signifies our openness to Him.

3. The affirmation of His authority (9-10)

a) Hosanna!

The shout of praise said something about the presence of Jesus. The word suggested more than praise alone. It literally means “save us” and it was a cry to God for deliverance. For that reason, when the people shouted “Hosanna,” they declared their joy over the Messiah who could save them.

b) He who comes

The expression “He who comes” can be found in Psalm 118:26. It came to be understood as a reference to the Messiah who would come in fulfillment of God’s promise. The people who rejoiced over the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem used the expression and connected it with Him and His authority as the Messiah. Mature Christians still refer to Him in the same way.

## Conclusion

On our side of the cross, we have an even clearer picture of the authority of Jesus that was declared with His arrival into Jerusalem. His presence was worth celebrating! Nothing has changed about Jesus. He continues to have authority, and His presence deserves your celebration and submission. What difference does the authority of the living Lord make to you?

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