

SUBJECT: FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

TEXT: MATTHEW 21:1-11

Introduction:

1. On the first day of the week in which Jesus would be rejected and ultimately crucified, we find Him entering Jerusalem as a conquering King.
2. Leaving Bethany He passed by Bethphage where His disciples found the colt of a donkey, as Jesus said they would.
3. A great multitude of pilgrims who were going up to Jerusalem for the Passover began to follow Jesus into Jerusalem with great praise and joy, and we see Jesus accepting these praises of royalty in a way that Israel would have to make a decision to accept or reject Him as King.
4. No doubt the world looks at these events in such a way as to deem this a week that went from triumph to tragedy.
5. We Christians, on the other hand, deem it a week that went from tragedy to triumph!

I. THIS WAS A WEEK OF TRAGEDY IN THAT THE MULTITUDES COULD NOT RECOGNIZE WHO JESUS REALLY WAS. **John 7:40-43** *Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him.*

A. Many of the multitude were Galileans where most of Jesus' ministry had taken place.

B. This week of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem has become known as the "Passion Week."

Perhaps a more fitting name would be "Garment Week." **Matthew 21:8** *And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.; **Luke 19:36** And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. The outer garment was spread before returning conquerors, great princes, or kings as a token of great respect and honor. cf. 2 Kings 9:13 Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"*

C. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem they cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD." **Luke 19:38** *'Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'*

D. The tragedy was that the multitudes considered Jesus as the King of the Jews who was going to save them from the Roman government and its oppression, not save their souls.

II. THE TRIUMPH OF THE PASSION WEEK.

A. The triumph was certainly not the day Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem, amid the praises of the people.

B. The triumph began when Jesus appeared in the donkey.

1. Horses are symbols of war in the Bible, while donkeys are symbols of peace.

2. The Prince of Peace had appeared! **Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.; **Luke 2:13-14** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

C. The triumph continued when man's time was replaced by God's time. **Mark 14:1-2** *After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people."*

D. It was on to Calvary and the crucifixion. **Matthew 27:39-43** *And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'";* **50** *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*

E. And of course, the ultimate triumph - the Resurrection! **1 Corinthians 15:55-57** *O death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### III. THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY.

A. As the multitudes did not recognize Jesus as to who He truly was, so the vast majority of people today fail to recognize who Jesus really is. **Matthew 16:13-17** *Then Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

1. Will you recognize Jesus as the Savior of the world - the only One who can give to you eternal life? **John 6:37** *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

B. As many spread forth their palm leaves, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David", they did so in unbelief, rejecting the King of kings, and the Prince of Peace.

C. The question is, "Will your life end in tragedy or triumph?" **John 3:18** *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

D. The ultimate tragedy would be for you to spend eternity in the lake of fire while you had every opportunity to be saved while you were still alive.