

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

"What Did Christ do on Palm Sunday?"

Matthew 21:1-17

Mar 23, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. Palm Sunday is the traditional day on which our Lord rode into the city of Jerusalem. It triggered the week that led to His death.
2. The unScriptural activities associated with so-called "lent" are carried over to this particular day also. It is sad to note that so much related to Him is not found in the Word.
3. What does the Bible say He did on this day? Consider the following activities of our Lord and their significance:

1. HE RODE AN ASS

His ride on the beast of burden taught:

- a. Christ as KING of Israel. Matt. 21:5.

Not since Zedekiah had there been a king presented to Israel. The first one in 600 years.

- b. Christ as HEIR of David. Mark 11:10.

2 Samuel 7 promised a lasting kingdom to the Jews. Christ came to fulfill the kingdom promises to Israel. God's Word is always filled full!

2. HE CLEANSSED THE TEMPLE

His cleansing included:

- a. A looking out. Mark 11:11. His investigation led to the actual cleansing. Cf. Rev. 1:14 for His eyes.

- b. A casting out.

Those who made merchandise were given no place in the temple

- c. A speaking out.

He proclaimed as a prophet the use to be put to His house

- (1) Its purpose: prayer. Generic term.

(2) Its participants: All nations. What a blow this was to the arrogant Jew. How it comes as a blow to some today who consider the Gospel and the church for a particular skin color!

(3) Its possession: My. Hence, the house belonged to the LORD. By way of comparison, how many consider a church building theirs or the denomination.

3. HE HEALED THE SICK. Matt. 21:14

The manner in which He healed is striking:

a. Individually

Each specific blind and lame man was healed.

The ones who came received His touch. How wonderful.

b. Instantaneously

The aorist tense of the verb connotes immediate results. No convalescence.

4. HE WEPT OVER THE CITY

There is no more expressive picture of the tender heart of our Lord in the Bible. Read it in Luke 19:42-

44. The people KNEW NOT:

a. Their tranquility v. 42. Speaks of salvation.

b. Their opportunity v. 44. Speaks of time.

c. Their calamity vv. 43, 44. Speaks of judgement.

CONCLUSION

After all our Lord did, what was the response? Note the testimony of the Word:

1. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS:

a. Sore displeased. Matt. 21:15

b. Rebuked His disciples. Luke 19:39

c. Decided to kill Christ. Mark 11:18

2. THE PEOPLE

a. Acclaimed Him as prophet. Matt. 21:11

b. Attended to Him and His Word. Luke 19:48

c. Appealed to Him to save them. Mark 11:10.

Beloved friend, what is YOUR response to the Lord?