

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## Palm Sunday: Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

*Mark 11:1-11*

We live in a world where celebrities - especially royalty - are heavily scrutinised. Clothes worn create great interest for commentators who may seek hidden messages.

In October 2021, the late Queen recorded a message at the time of the COP 26 conference. She wore a green dress adorned with a butterfly brooch in front of a picture of the late Duke of Edinburgh.

The colour choice was fitting for a talk about nature; the butterfly and photograph were apt as a remembrance of her husband who was passionate about the environment. We know that the Queen would have prepared meticulously.

As Jesus prepared to enter Jerusalem, we see the King of kings giving attention to every detail. Jesus' entry was in marked contrast to the Roman occupiers. Demonstrating their status through horses, chariots and weapons, soldiers would have ridden through the Jerusalem streets determined to show their fear-inducing power.

Jesus' entrance is rich with symbolism. He chose to show that His rule was totally different. He was humble and lowly; His power was freedom-giving. His coming fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.

The crowd's response underlined the message that Jesus was coming as a King and bringing in a new kingdom. They threw their garments on the floor as a fitting royal welcome with loud shouts:

'Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David. Hosanna in the highest.'

Through shouting 'hosanna', the people looked to Jesus as the one who could provide them with a way out of the things that enslaved them. As Jews, preparing for Passover, their words would have been rich with meaning as they would have been mindful of the way God saved the Israelites from Egypt.

The slow, steady steps of the donkey would have provided Jesus with the ability to see people's faces closely. As He looked into the eyes of the people cheering, His heart and mind would have been full of all that lay before Him. He knew that He was coming to provide a way for people to be set free and find a new way of living. As we reflect on the events of Palm Sunday, remember that Jesus sees and hears. Cry out, 'hosanna' consciously asking Jesus to save you from the things that hold you captive. Thank Jesus, the King of kings, for His ability to set you free to live a new life.

**Joy Rushton, Being Witnesses Manager**

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