

The Gospel of John

The Triumphal Entry

John 12:12-50

As the end draws near, Christ offers Himself publicly to the people as their Messiah. For most of His ministry He has shunned the public and avoided the crowds. Now He makes a rare, bold move in fulfillment of prophesy.

The Setting

- The Passover is days away and crowds are gathering in Jerusalem preparing for the feast.

The Story

- The Triumphal Entry - Saturday, 10th of Nisan
 - Note - This the "Great Sabbath" preceding Passover and the day the lambs were chosen for the Passover (Exodus 12:3)
 - The crowds have anticipated the arrival of Christ and greet Him as a hero – vs. 12-13
 - Palm branches picture joy and victory.
 - Hosanna means "save us now" and refers to Psalm 118:25-26.
 - "King of Israel" – they are proclaiming Christ as Messiah but expecting Him to be the conquering Messiah of Psalm 2 and not the suffering Messiah of Isaiah 53.
 - Jesus comes riding a young donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9 – vs. 14-16
 - A donkey is a symbol of peace while a horse is a symbol of war.
 - The disciples did not understand this significance until later – vs. 16
 - The reports of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead have created even more excitement – vs. 17-18
 - The Pharisees are made more desperate as they watch – vs. 19
- Christ and the Greeks – Sunday or Monday?
 - A group of Greeks (Gentiles) want to see Christ – vs. 20-22
 - Some think they approach Philip because his home in Galilee was near many Greek settlements.
 - The Son glorified through His sacrifice – vs. 23-24
 - B.H. Carroll – "The sense of the passage seems to be this: 'The Gentiles are coming. In their salvation I will be glorified. I cannot get to that glory except through my cross.'"
 - To serve Christ is to follow in His pattern – vs. 25-26

- B.H. Carroll – “We must die to our sins, by the withering work of the Holy Spirit, before we can bear the fruit of joy in our regeneration.”
- This dark hour is why He came – vs. 27
- The Father speaks audibly – vs. 28-30
 - This is the third time this has happened, also at Christ’s Baptism (Matthew 3:17) and the Transfiguration (Matthew 26:42)
- The coming victory through Christ’s death – vs. 31-33
 - “lifted up” refers back to the Brazen Serpent (3:14) but also clearly points to crucifixion.
- The people wonder how the Messiah could die if He were eternal – vs. 34
- Christ replies indirectly to their confusion, saying that should follow the Light while they can – vs. 35-36
- The Unbelief of the People – Sunday or Monday?
 - The people still did not believe, fulfilling Isaiah 53:1 – vs. 37-38
 - The people could not believe, fulfilling Isaiah 6:9-10 – vs. 39-40
 - This is similar to Pharaoh having his heart hardened by God but also hardening his own heart. The people refused to believe and God providentially left them in that state.
 - These prophecies were about Christ, whom Isaiah saw (Isaiah 6:1) – vs. 41
 - Many rulers believed on Him, but not publicly – vs. 42-43
 - These were convinced in their heads but not their hearts.
- Christ’s Mission - Sunday or Monday?
 - To believe on Christ is to believe the Father – vs. 44
 - To see Christ is to see the Father – vs. 45
 - Christ’s role as Saviour – vs. 46-47
 - There is a consequence for not believing on Christ – vs. 48
 - The burden of responsibility is on us to believe on Him.
 - Christ’s message is of and from the Father – vs. 49-50