



and that's...  
**The Gospel Truth!!**  
with Pat Corn

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*a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter*

I always enjoy “kickin’ up a little spiritual and theological dust”. Palm Sunday and the account of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem is one of my favorite “kickin” times. Portrayed so sweetly in little Easter pageants, and given an almost Hallmark card atmosphere, this day in history was, in reality, a vastly different scene. Let’s look at the scripture from Matthew, Chapter 21.

“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them back right away.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to the Daughter of Zion,  
    'See, your King comes to you,  
    gentle and riding on a donkey,  
    on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
"Hosanna in the highest!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Let’s look at the reality of the moment. First of all it was Passover, and every Hebrew headed toward Jerusalem for the feast. There was a certain sect of Hebrews known as the Maccabees (Mac-a-be-uns). This sect of Hebrews were particular trouble makers for the Jewish hierarchy and the Roman guard. During this Passover feast sixteen hundred extra soldiers were brought into Jerusalem just to keep the peace. The Passover feast was a huge time of celebration and discourse among the Jews. The Maccabees were known as “zealots”. Hebrew rabble-rousers!! This passionate group had one thing in their favor. As a group, they were the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

The Hebrews looked for a Messiah but they expected a militaristic, all powerful deliverer that would wipe out the Roman army and all authority associated with Rome. Their interpretation of what the Messiah would be like may have been a chief reason why they missed the mark with Jesus.

What kind of a Savior Messiah would make an entrance on a borrowed donkey colt? Impossible! Their Messiah would come on a blazing steed, with a sword in hand with Rome's name written on it, ready to vanquish Israel's every enemy!!! What kind of a Messiah would enter with His steed adorned in common clothing of dirty road weary Hebrews? Why, their Messiah should be riding in a saddle of gold with fine purple saddle blankets. What kinda of Messiah would ride on a lumbering donkey colt and not a high stepping snorting stallion? Preposterous!!

The zealots recognized the divinity of Jesus which came with all authority beyond man's comprehension. That is why they cried out "Hosanna!!" The term Hosanna has been "Christian-ized" and is eventually accepted as a common term of praise. It was not that at all! The Maccabeans were crying out in anguish, "Lord! Have mercy on us!!" They knew that He was, in fact, God in the flesh. They recognized that he was a sovereign Lord, who possessed all authority to judge them rightly. They were crying out in anguish for His mercy on their souls! Their acknowledgement Of Jesus really hacked off the Pharisees and Sadducees!

Mercy is defined as one in authority acting on the behalf of those of whom he has authority over. These zealots knew that Jesus had that type of authority, and they recognized it and honored Him by treating Him in a kingly fashion by laying their coats and palm branched in front of Him as He proceeded forward toward Jerusalem.

There has been one Easter pageant after another whose music is centered in the term "Hosanna". It is a shame that they weren't all written in a mournful, ominous, heart wrenching, minor keys, because the word Hosanna cries out loudly, in abject anguish, for God's mercy. No Hallmark theology here, just enormous fear for the condition of their souls.

What is the condition of your soul? Do you need to fall on your knees and cry out "Hosanna"? Get ready! He's coming again and this time judgment is going to occur!! You can book it!!

First Time....

'See, your King comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Next Time....

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:  
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS .....Revelation 19:11-16

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Email your comments or questions to:

[patcorn@maizeone.com](mailto:patcorn@maizeone.com)

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