**Palm Sunday April 5, 2020**

*Palm Sunday – Celebrating the King*

All 4 Gospel writers describe the events of Palm Sunday:

 Matthew 21:1-11

 Mark 11:1-11

 Luke 19:29-44

 John 12:12-19

Matthew 21:1-3

Bethpage

* The name means “house of figs”
* On the road from Jericho to Jerusalem
* Mark tells us it was near Bethany, which was less than 2 miles from Jerusalem

Mount of Olives

* Several of the Passion week events are located here
* The Garden of Gethsemane is part way down the mountain

Two disciples

* We do not know which ones they were

Donkey

* Kings at times rode on donkey following indicating a time of peace
* Jesus is the, “Prince of Peace”
* It also symbolized a time of peace & celebration for the people

Matthew 21:4-5

* This was in fulfillment of several Old Testament prophecies
* Zechariah 9:9
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
* Daniel 9:25
So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **until Messiah the Prince** *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.
* Psalm 118:25–26
25 O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity! 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.
* Reminder: fulfilled prophecy is very important to Matthew, writing primarily to a Jewish audience

For more details on this see the brief, but outstanding book,
“Daniel’s Prophecy of the 70 Weeks” by Dr. Alva J. McClain

Matthew 21:6-8

* It was customary to lay down flowers and palm branches and to spread carpets and garments in the pathway of conquerors and great princes, and of others to whom it was intended to show particular honor and respect[[1]](#footnote-1)

Matthew 21:9-11

* Up until this time, Jesus discouraged people from proclaiming publicly who He is
* This is the first time that He does not encourage silence
* Luke 19:39–40
39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” 40 But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”
1. Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). [*Manners & customs of the Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nmncstbib?ref=Bible.Mt21.8&off=161&ctx=.+(See+Mark+10%3a37.)%0a~It+was+usual+to+stre) (p. 450). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)