

Hosanna!

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 569-575

Has a friend ever done something unusual? Something they have never done before? In today's Bible story, Jesus is getting ready to enter Jerusalem. He knows He will soon face death. And He does something unusual, something He had never done before.

It happened like this:

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. He spoke to two of His disciples: "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, one no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord

needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

"They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go." (See Mark 11:2-6, NIV.)

So the disciples led the donkey's colt to Jesus. They spread their coats over it, and He sat on it. "Jesus was following the Jewish custom for a royal entry."^{*} The colt was like those ridden by the kings of Israel in years past. Years before, Zechariah had prophesied about that. He wrote that the Messiah would show Himself to the people of Jerusalem, and that He would be riding on a donkey's colt.

(See Zechariah 9:9.)

The people knew about that prophecy. No sooner was Jesus seated on the colt than the disciples and others started shouting! The people hailed Him as Messiah, their King.

Do you remember Lazarus, Jesus' friend He brought back to life?

Lazarus took the donkey's reins and started leading it through the streets of Jerusalem.^{**} Jesus' disciples laid their coats before Jesus for the colt to walk on. When other people saw what was happening, they started shouting and putting their coats down too. With the



The Message

I worship God when
I praise Him.

Memory Verse

“ ‘Hosanna!’
‘Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord!’ ”

(John 12:13, NIV).

disciples they shouted, “ ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ” (John 12:13, NIV). (Hosanna is a cry of praise to God.) The people were thanking God for sending the Messiah to them. They were honoring Jesus as they never had before.

Many people had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Passover was a time to remember how God had led the Hebrew people out of Egypt many years before. Many of these people had never heard of Jesus. They watched the crowd around Jesus and asked about Him. In this way they learned about Jesus. And they joined in the big praise parade too.

Others in the crowd knew Jesus. They knew about those He had healed or raised from the dead. So a great crowd followed Jesus, shouting praises to Him as He entered Jerusalem.

But the Jewish leaders were not shouting praises. They were jealous of Jesus. They tried to quiet the people, but couldn't. So they shouted angrily at Jesus, “Teacher, tell these people to stop!”

“I tell you,” Jesus answered, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!” (See Luke 19:39, 40.) He was telling them that it was good and right for the people to praise Him as God. And if people didn't, His creation would!

When the parade was over, Jesus' disciples were excited and happy. They really thought that Jesus would be their powerful king and take over Israel. They still didn't understand that He would soon die for them.

But for that one day, Jesus allowed people



to treat Him like a king. He allowed them to worship Him. He let them shout, “ ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ” In this way, they showed their love and respect.

When we praise Jesus today, we, too, are worshiping Him as our King and Saviour. He is worthy to be praised!

*The Desire of Ages, p. 570.

**The Desire of Ages, p. 572.



S A B B A T H

DO Sit under a tree or in a quiet place and share your lesson story with your family. Ask: What did the people say to praise Jesus? What did they do? Why? What did Jesus say the stones would do if the people didn't praise Him?

SHARE Share with someone the palm leaf you wrote on in Sabbath School. Or draw a palm leaf and write on it something you want to praise Jesus for this week. Put it where you'll see it often.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Luke 19:28-40 during family worship. Ask your family to help you make a list of 12 things for which to praise Jesus. Keep your list and pray about two of the things each day this week.

DO Remember! Praising Jesus is more than singing or praying. You can praise Jesus in everything you say and do. Ask yourself, "How did I praise Jesus today?" Ask your family how they praised Jesus today.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss John 12:12-19 during family worship. How is this record different from Luke 19:28-40?

DO Shout your memory verse together as you wave your palm leaf. Then praise Jesus for something He has done for you and your family.

A king coming in peace would ride on a donkey.



T U E S D A Y

SING To start worship today, sing a praise song with your family. Then read Matthew 21:1-11 together and compare it to the text you read yesterday. How is it different? How is it the same?

DO Look at a book or on the Internet to see what a palm tree and branches look like. Find out where they grow. If Jesus were to ride down your street, what kind of tree branch or leaves could you wave at Him? For what will you praise Him today?

W E D N E S D A Y

DO Ask your family: How does nature praise God? (Stars twinkle, flowers give beauty, etc.) Make a list or draw some ways. Then go outside together, stand near a nature object, and shout your memory verse twice. Join hands and thank God for something He made for your family to enjoy.

SING Sing a praise song together as you go back inside.

THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss Mark 11:1-11 with your family. Did you learn anything new?

DO Look in magazines or books to find pictures of people giving praise and worship to God by what they are doing. Or act out some examples for your family and have them guess. (Feeding your cat, giving flowers to Grandma, etc.) Give examples that have happened to you this week.

DO Form a circle with your family. As you toss a wadded paper ball to each person, have each tell one thing they want to praise God for.

FRIDAY

DO Act out the Bible story with your family. Use scarves or pretty cloth to wave at "Jesus." Towels can be used as coats to lay before Him. Together, read the first nine paragraphs of *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 63, to learn more about the story.

DO Ask each person to read a Bible verse as a way to praise God. Sing some songs of praise before prayer.

PUZZLE

Directions: Help the disciples find the donkey colt Jesus sent them to get.

