# Reading: Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:29-44

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The Entrance is Everything

The entrance is everything. We recognize this as sports fans. Baseball players come up to the plate with a theme song, football players run through a tunnel, and basketball players are introduced as “the starting five.” We make a big deal out of entrances and the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem was the biggest one of them all!

On Sunday Morning (Palm Sunday), Jesus descended the Mount of Olives on the foal of a donkey riding into Jerusalem. By this symbolic action Jesus communicated his kingship to the Passover crowds and fulfilled the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Jesus was mirroring Solomon’s entrance into Jerusalem when he was declared king (1 Kings 1:32-40).

The crowds rightly understood Jesus’ actions and responded by spreading robes and leafy palm branches in his pathway to create a royal red carpet. The crowds were filled with Messianic hope due to Jesus’ previous miracles and now they are proclaiming Jesus as their Davidic or Messianic King. However, this exuberant joy was not shared by everyone.

The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus’ popularity and Rome itself could allow no rival kings. There would be no turning back for Jesus. The stage was set. Jesus was too big of a threat for all his opponents. He must be eliminated or worshiped. There was no middle ground.

Jesus would die because he was the true king (shepherd) of Israel. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). He came to Jerusalem to die. This was His appointed hour to drink the cup of suffering. Praise God His death was substitutionary! His death was on behalf of others and so was his resurrection. We too also wait expectantly for Easter Sunday to be reminded and refreshed by Jesus’ glorious resurrection and defeat of death.