

## Mark 11:1-10

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and told them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it, and he will send it back here without delay.’”

<sup>4</sup>They left and found a colt on the street, tied at a door; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>Some who were standing there asked them, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup>The disciples answered them just as Jesus had instructed them, and the men let them go.

<sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their garments on the road. Others spread branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>Those who went in front and those who followed were crying out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest!

## Hosanna!

### I.

Two men were rapidly coming up the path into town. Their hearts were pounding; partially because of the exertion of rushing uphill toward the small village, but even more so with anticipation. The pair had been sent to perform a task that might sound strange to many, but their knowledge of the past history of their country made them acutely aware of all the implications.

Today wasn't the first day that their Master had sent out an advance team to handle some details, so just being sent ahead on an uphill climb to the next village wasn't what got the blood pumping for the two this day. What set this day apart was the mission itself. “[Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and told them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here’” (Mark 11:1-2, EHV).

It wasn't just the *history* of their country that the two—and the other ten of their compatriots—were familiar with, but also prophecy. There were dozens of prophecies in the Scriptures of their people. One thing that was always pointed to was a hope for a certain Someone. The past three years had left all twelve completely convinced that they knew precisely who this certain Someone was turning out to be—and he had just asked them to do a certain something that seemed to indicate that *now* was the time that their special Someone would be revealed as the promised Messiah.

Jesus' instructions to them certainly sounded as though he were about to fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah: “Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation. He is humble and is riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9, EHV).

Messiah was supposed to enter Jerusalem to be recognized as the long-awaited King by riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey. They had just been sent to fetch the colt! This was exciting! Maybe now people would start to treat their Master, Jesus, with the respect he deserved! Maybe now *they* would cease to be seen as just a bunch of country bumpkins and rubes and would be accorded a certain amount of honor, too!