



The Mission and Ministry of Jesus

- The public ministry of Jesus lasted just three short years – 156 weeks, roughly 1100 days
- His mission:
“...to bring Good News to the poor...to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.” Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)

The Final Week of Jesus’ Public Ministry

- Christians to Jesus’ final week as Holy Week.
- The Gospel writers clearly believed this final week to be the most important.
 - Matthew devotes _____ of his Gospel to Holy Week.
 - Mark devotes _____ of his Gospel to Holy Week.
 - Luke devotes _____ of his Gospel to Holy Week and Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem.
 - John devotes _____ of his Gospel to Holy Week and beyond.

The First Palm Sunday

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to...the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it and will return it soon.’ The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” Mark 11

Questions Thinking People Ask

- If Jesus knew the Pharisees and the powerful, religious elite were plotting to kill him, why would he and his disciples go to Jerusalem?
 - He went to Jerusalem to celebrate _____.
- If the Mount of Olives is only half a mile from Jerusalem, why did Jesus request to ride a donkey?
 - It was a symbolic act dating back to _____.
 - It was a fulfillment of _____.

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look our king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)

- Why did the crowd wave palm branches and shout, “Hosanna?”
 - Palm branches were a sign of victory used to welcome a victorious king returning home from battle.
 - “Hosanna!” means _____.
 - When the crowd shouted, “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,*” they were quoting Psalm 118:26.

The first day of Passover week was “lamb selection day.” Each family either brought with them to Jerusalem the best, most perfect lamb from their flock, or bought a lamb while in Jerusalem.

They were to live with the lamb from Sunday to Friday. The idea was that by living with the lamb, the lamb would take on the sins of the family. On Friday, the lamb would be sacrificed as atonement for their sins.

The Parades of Palm Sunday

- Jesus was not the only celebrity to enter Jerusalem that day.
 - Parade #2 -- _____.
He was the Roman Governor of Judea who paraded into Jerusalem with at least 1000 armed Roman soldiers in all their regalia. His parade was designed to be a show of force to suppress any thoughts of rebellion during Passover.
 - Parade #3 -- _____.
He was the Jewish puppet-king of the Romans in charge of Judea. He entered with his royal troops. His supporters lined the street of Jerusalem cheering his arrival.

The Day God Entered Jerusalem

- After the Exodus, God instructed Moses to build a box containing the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments. The box was called the Ark of the Covenant. God promised to dwell with the Israelites on the Ark and they were to carry the Ark with them wherever they went. For centuries, the people of Israel guarded and protected the Ark.
- During the reign of King David, the Ark was captured by the Philistines and when it was finally able to be retrieved, David sent 30,000 people out to bring it back to Jerusalem.
- The return of the Ark (the presence of God) was a parade of such joy that David danced with joy before the presence of the Lord.

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory. Psalm 24:7-10 (NIV)

- 1000 years before Jesus entered Jerusalem on “lamb selection day,” God the Father entered Jerusalem with 30,000 people celebrating.
- 1000 years later, God the Son entered Jerusalem without swords, shields, chariots and spears. He came as the Prince of Peace.