

Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

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Well, one day long ago many people gathered beside the road to watch something like a parade—only there was just ONE person passing by. He was the most important person who ever lived. You know who THAT was, don't you? It was Jesus. He and His disciples had been walking to Jerusalem, when they came near the town of Bethany, Jesus said to two of the disciples, "Go into the village and you will find a little donkey tied by a doorway. Untie him and bring him to me. If anyone asks why you are taking him, tell him that the Lord needs the donkey, and he will let you bring him."

Right away the disciples went to obey Jesus, and sure enough they found the donkey just where Jesus said he would be. They brought him to Jesus, but before He got on, they threw their coats on the donkeys back so Jesus would have something soft to sit on.

Off Jesus went to Jerusalem, but as He rode through the streets people began to crowd around

to watch Him pass by. These people had seen Jesus do many miracles. They'd seen Him make sick people well and blind men see, and they had watched Him feed many people with just one little lunch. They thought Jesus was wonderful because of all the things He had done.

More and more people came, bringing their friends with them. Soon the streets were just lined with people who had come to watch Jesus ride through the streets to Jerusalem.

They were so happy. They wanted Jesus to be their king and do even more miracles. To show Jesus how much they loved Him, the people threw their coats into the street for the donkey to walk on. Then they broke branches from the palm trees nearby and waved them to Jesus. Some threw the palm branched into the streets. They began to call out to Jesus, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the son of David!" They were trying to show Jesus how much they loved Him.

Some of the leaders who heard the people calling to Jesus became angry, "Master, tell them to be quiet! They said. But Jesus didn't stop the people. He liked them to show their love for Him. They kept calling, "Hosanna! Hosanna! To the King!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

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**Jesus Rides into Jerusalem
Palm Sunday
(I wrote this story)**

**How many of you have ever gone to a parade?
What are some of the things that you saw in the
parade?**

**Perhaps there were clowns, and horses and floats.
Maybe there were fire trucks or police car.**

**Lots of people crowd in and try to find a spot
where they can see. A parade it lots of fun, isn't it?**

**Long ago, MANY people gathered beside the road
in Jerusalem. Why, you would have thought that
they too were preparing for a HUGE parade to
pass by.**

**On both sides of the road, people crowded closely
together.**

**Little children probably sat on the shoulders of
their mothers and fathers so that they could get a
better look.**

**But this wasn't a parade. In fact, there was just
ONE person passing by.**

**He was the most important person who ever lived.
You know who THAT special person was, don't
you? That's right, it was Jesus.**

**Before Jesus and His disciples reached the town of
Jerusalem where ALL the people were waiting,
they came to a little town called Bethany.**

**Jesus said to two of the disciples, "Go into the
village and you will find a little donkey tied by a
doorway. Untie him and bring him to me.**

**If anyone asks why you are taking him, tell him
that the Lord needs the donkey, and he will let you
bring him."**

**Right away the disciples went to obey Jesus, and
sure enough they found the donkey just where
Jesus said he would be.**

**When they began to untie the donkey, the owner
caught them and asked "What are you doing with
my donkey?"**

**When they told Him that the Lord needed the
little donkey, he gladly let them take it away.**

They brought the little donkey to Jesus, but before He got on, they threw their coats on the donkeys back so that Jesus would have something soft to sit on.

Off Jesus went to Jerusalem, and as He rode through the streets, people began to crowd closer and closer around Him.

These people had seen Jesus do many miracles. They'd seen Him make sick people well and blind men see, and they had watched Him feed many people with just one little lunch. They thought Jesus was wonderful because of all the things He had done.

More and more people came, bringing their friends with them. Soon the streets were just lined with people who had come to watch Jesus ride through the streets to Jerusalem.

As a sign of worship, the people broke branches from the palm trees nearby and waved them at Jesus.

Some threw the palm branches into the streets and the little donkey walked right on top of them.

**The people began to call out to Jesus, “Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the
Lord!**

Hosanna to the son of David!”

**They were trying to show Jesus how much they
loved Him.**

**Some of the leaders who heard
the people calling to Jesus became angry,
“Master, tell them to be quiet! They said.**

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Jesus Rides into Jerusalem Palm Sunday

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More and more people came, bringing their friends with them. Soon the streets were just lined with people who had come to watch Jesus ride through the streets to Jerusalem.

As a sign of worship, the people broke branches from the palm trees nearby and waved them at Jesus.

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**The people began to call out to Jesus, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
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Palm Sunday (I Wrote)

When Jesus walked upon this earth, there were men, called Pharisees.

A Pharisee was a religious leader's who was in charge of making sure that all the laws given to Moses were obeyed.

There were no exceptions...none at all.
EXCEPT for themselves.

You see, a Pharisee thought that they were better than everyone else and that everyone else should follow and obey their commands but they didn't have to follow the laws.

For this reason, Jesus called them hypocrites.

A hypocrite is someone who tells you what you are supposed to do or not do, but they don't follow the same rules.

Often the Pharisees would see Jesus doing certain things like healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

Or, allowing His disciples to pick grain to eat on the Sabbath because they were hungry.

Or, healing a man named Bethesda (Ba-thes-da); who had been ill for 38 years, on the Sabbath.

Each time the Pharisees saw Jesus doing something that THEY thought was un-lawful, they would accuse Jesus of breaking the law.

However, each time that the Pharisees complained...Jesus would correct them.

He would tell them that THEY were wrong and that He was doing nothing wrong in God's eyes.

Each time that Jesus corrected them....they became angrier and angrier.

So angry in fact that they began to plot against Jesus.

Now at this same time...Jesus' popularity began to grow bigger and bigger.

Each time He perform a miracle...and each time He sat down and talked with the people...and each time He taught about God... more and more and more people began to follow Him.

When the Pharisees saw how popular He was becoming and how many followers He had, they hated Him even more.

Why, He was becoming more popular that they were.

THAT would never work with men who thought that they were better than everyone else, would it?

The Pharisee's were use to people listening to them and following them.

They didn't like it when the Jewish people followed Jesus instead.

So they began to watch Jesus VERY closely.

They had to find some way of catching Jesus doing something wrong.

If only they could PROVE that He was breaking the law....they would have a reason to put Him to death.

These were probably difficult days for Jesus. He had to be careful of where He went and what He did because the Pharisees were looking for Him.

Not only that, but when Jesus began to proclaim that HE WAS INDEED the son of God, many of His own followers began to turn away from Him.

They began to ask “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? If His father is Joseph...then His father cannot be God. How can He say these things?

Soon the followers began to argue amongst themselves. And many of them turned away and said “These things are too difficult to believe”

Now although there were many people who hated Jesus at this time, there were also those who loved Him.

Three of Jesus’ followers...and special friends were named Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

Lazarus, Mary and Martha were sisters and brother.

When Jesus would visit their home town of Bethany, He always made sure to stop by and visit His special friends.

One day... Mary and Martha heard that Jesus was coming for a visit.

They ran home as fast as they could to begin making SPECIAL preparations for their good friend, Jesus.

When He arrived, Martha started making a special meal for Him while Mary sat down at His feet and listened to all that Jesus was saying.

When Martha realized that SHE was doing all the work and Mary was just sitting and visiting with Jesus, she got angry.

She went to Jesus and said “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work? Tell her to help me.”

But Jesus said Martha, Martha, don’t worry about the little things.

Mary has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her.”

Mary had chosen Jesus, she had chosen to spend time with Jesus.

And this is a reminder to us that we should not get caught up in the little things that occupy our time. We TOO should spend time with Jesus each day.

What a wonderful time they must have had...I wish that I could have been in the room when Jesus had visited with Mary and Martha. How about you?

After Jesus' visit...Off He went again to teach and preach and heal.

Some time later...a messenger brought some very sad news to Jesus.

His special friend Lazarus was very, very ill.

So ill in fact that He was near death.

Jesus KNEW that Lazarus was going to die...but He wanted to use Lazarus's death as a way to glorify God.

Soooo..... He waited two whole days before He left for Lazarus's home in Bethany.

Now going to Bethany was a dangerous thing for Jesus to do.

The Pharisees were looking for Him and the opposition in Judea had grown even worse against Him.

His disciples warned Him against going.

But Jesus knew that His time to die had not come yet.

As Jesus neared the town...He knew that He could be in danger. So, He stopped about 2 miles outside of town and sent word to Martha that He was there.

Martha secretly left her home and ran to Jesus.

“Lord” she said “If You had been here, my brother would not have died.

Even now I know that whatever You ask God, God will give You.”

Martha had faith in Jesus, she knew that if He asked God to raise Lazarus from the dead....God would do so.

Jesus said, “Your brother will rise and live again.”

Martha was soooo happy. She knew that Jesus would not let her down.

Jesus said “Run get your sister Mary but do it in secret.”

When Martha arrived back at her home, Mary was mourning and weeping with many of their friends over the death of Lazarus.

Martha did not want to alert all the other people.

She wasn't sure which ones were true followers of Jesus' and which ones might run to the Pharisees and tell them that Jesus was there.

Secretly she whispered to Mary “The Teacher is here, and is calling for you.”

Mary got up quietly...But her leaving did not go un-notice.

When she got up to leave, the Jews saw her.

Thinking that she was going to the tomb once again to mourn and cry for her brother Lazarus.

They got up as well and began to follow her.

When Mary approached Jesus, she fell down at His feet. “Lord if You had been here, my brother would not have died” she said.

When Jesus saw Mary weeping and the Jews who came with her, also weeping.

He was deeply moved in spirit, and Jesus wept.

In the New Testament, there are three times that Jesus wept.

You see, even though Jesus was all God, He was also all human, He had feeling just like we do.

He felt sorrow, He felt sadness, He felt anger, He felt gladness. He felt all the same things that we do.

When the Jews saw Jesus cry, they said “Behold how He loved him!” referring to Lazarus.

But some of the people said “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of him who was blind, have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus asked Mary and Martha; “Where have you laid him?”

And they said to Him, “Lord come and see.”

When the people took Jesus to the cave where Lazarus was buried, He found that a big stone had been rolled in front of the tomb.

Jesus told them to roll the stone away but Martha, Lazarus’ sister said to Him. “Lord by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

Jesus said to her. “Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

And so they removed the stone from in front of
the tomb.

Jesus raised His eyes and said “Father, I thank
you for hearing me. And I know that you hear
me always;

but because of the people standing here I ask
that you make Lazarus rise so that they may see
and believe that you did send me.”

Then Jesus turned to the tomb and said
“Lazarus, come forth.”

Lazarus, still wrapped in the burial cloth, from
head to toe, looking like a mummy, rose and
walked from the tomb.

Jesus said “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews that were there that day
witnessing the raising of Lazarus from the dead,
began to believe in Jesus at that time.

But some of them went away to the Pharisees,
and told them everything that they had seen.

When the Pharisees received this news, they said
one to another “What are we doing? This man is
performing many signs.

“If we let Him go on like this, all men will
believe in Him, and the Romans will come and
take away both our place and our nation.”

So from that day on they planned together to
earnestly seek and kill Him.

Jesus therefore no longer walked publicly
among the Jews, but went away from there to
the country near the wilderness into a city called
Ephraim and there He stayed with His disciples.

Now, it was six days before the big Jewish
Passover feast in Jerusalem and Jesus wanted to
see His friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha again.
So he went back to Bethany once again.

When he arrived at Lazarus's home, a big dinner was prepared in His honor.

While Martha served the meal once again, Mary brought in a pint of VERY expensive perfume. She poured the expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and then she wiped his feet with her hair.

And the sweet smell of the perfume filled the whole house.

Judas Iscariot; one of Jesus' disciples, began to complain.

"This perfume was worth three hundred coins. Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?"

But Judas didn't really care about the poor; he said this because he was a thief.

He was the one who kept the money box, and he often stole from it.

Jesus said “Leave her alone. It was right for her to save this perfume for today, the day for me to be prepared for burial.

You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.”

You see, Jesus knew that the time was near for His death and burial.

In Bible times, when people died, women would prepare the body for burial by placing perfume and spices on the body.

This way, when the body began to decay, the perfume and spices would hide some of the smell.

As news of Jesus’ arrival in Bethany began to spread, people began to gather together to see; not only Jesus, but Lazarus whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

Because of Lazarus, many Jews had begun to believe in Jesus.

For this reason, the Pharisees and leading priest
made plans to kill Lazarus as well.

Now, the time for the Passover feast had arrived.

Everyone stood around, looking to see if Jesus
would show up for the feast.

They knew that the Pharisees were looking for
Jesus and they were curious to see if Jesus
would show up or not.

They knew that the Pharisees and the leading
priests had given strict orders that if ANYONE
knew where Jesus was, he MUST tell them
immediately so that they could arrest Him.

Would Jesus show up?

Would the Pharisee's capture Him?

Would He be arrested?

Well..... next week, you will find out exactly
what happened next.

Memory Verse

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1 Peter 5:7

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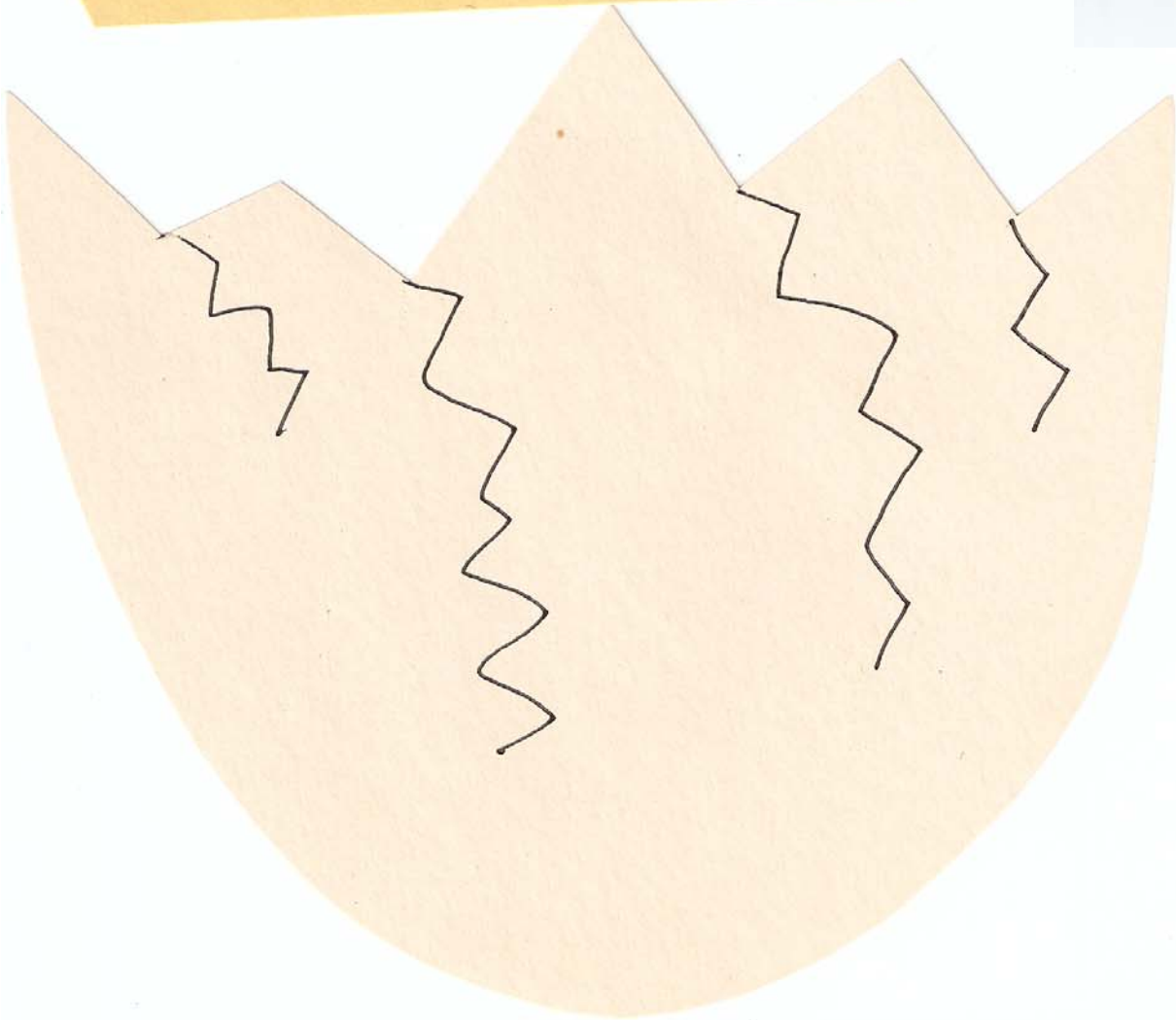
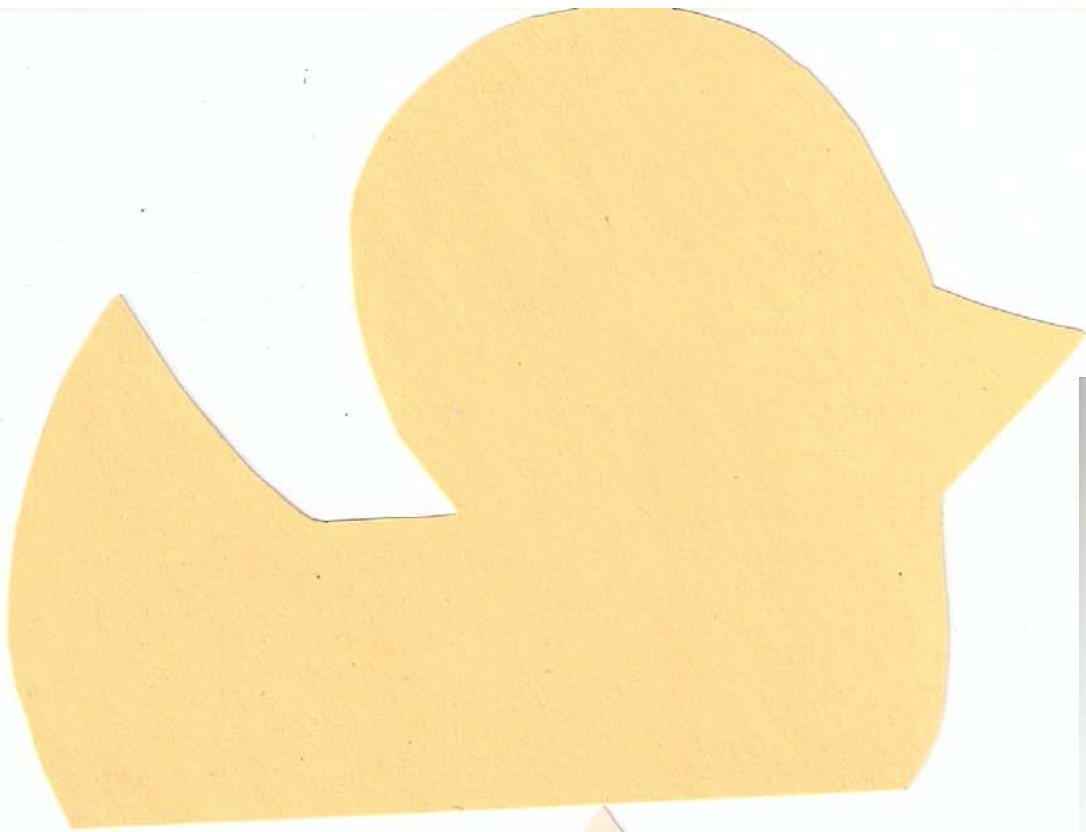
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THE JELLYBEAN

An egg full of jellybeans, colorful and sweet,
Reminds me of God's bounty with this Easter treat!

RED is for the blood Christ gave.

GREEN is for the palm's cool shade.

YELLOW is for God's light so bright.

ORANGE is for prayers at twilight

BLACK is for sweet rest at night.

WHITE is for the grace of Christ.

PURPLE is for his days of sorrow.

PINK is for each new tomorrow.

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Fill Plastic Eggs with jelly beans that correspond with the poem above.
Attach (tape) a copy of poem

We will begin to make these eggs (1 for each member of the congregation).
Work on it a little each week up until Easter Sunday.
On Easter Sunday, the kids passed out the eggs

Attach (Tape) one tag to each plastic egg. Do not use labels, they do not work well.

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They were so happy. They wanted Jesus to be their king and do even more miracles. To show Jesus how much they loved Him, the people threw their coats into the street for the donkey to walk on. Then they broke branches from the palm trees nearby and waved them to Jesus. Some threw the palm branched into the streets. They began to call out to Jesus, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

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Craft:

Tambourine

Gather the following supplies

Small Paper Plates 6" (2 per child)

Small Strips of crepe paper (various colors) about 6-8" lengths

Stapler

Staples

Beans-Pinto, white, or whatever you have

Lay the first paper plate down (face up- as if you are going use it to eat something.)

Instruct the children to glue the strips of crepe paper around the bottom edge of that plate.

Run a thin line of glue around the entire edge of the plate

Place a hand full of beans in the center of that plate

Turn the second plate upside down on top of the first plate.

Press the two plates together around the edges.

To reinforce the glue and prevent any beans from escaping, staple around the entire circumference of the plate. (Leave no space between the staples. Just one staple after the other until you have gone around the entire plate.

Allow the children to use water colors to color their plate or use crayons.

When you are done and the paint dry, sing praise songs and shake your tambourine.

**Paint, Color, use stickers or whatever you would like to do
with your tambourine**





Matthew 21: 1-11

Prior to story time:

Make Palm Branches out of construction paper and Popsicle sticks.

Instruct the children to hold their palm branches still and listen for the word Hosanna.

When they hear you say the word Hosanna, they are to wave their palm branches.

Show them how you want them to wave

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Have you ever gone to a parade or maybe watched one on TV? There are clowns and cars and floats and lots of special people. Everyone finds a spot on the side of the street where they can see. Its lots of fun!

Well, one day long ago many people gathered beside the road to watch something like a parade—only there was just ONE person passing by. He was the most important person who ever lived. You know who THAT was, don't you? It was Jesus. He and His disciples had been walking to Jerusalem, when they came near the town of Bethany, Jesus said to two of the disciples, "Go into the village and you will find a little donkey tied by a doorway. Untie him and bring him to me. If anyone asks why you are taking him, tell him that the Lord needs the donkey, and he will let you bring him."

Right away the disciples went to obey Jesus, and sure enough they found the donkey just where Jesus said he would be. They brought him to Jesus, but before He got on, they threw their coats on the donkeys back so Jesus would have something soft to sit on.

Off Jesus went to Jerusalem, but as He rode through the streets people began to crowd around to watch Him pass by. These people had seen Jesus do many miracles. They'd seen Him make sick people well and blind men see, and they had watched Him feed many people with just one little lunch. They thought Jesus was wonderful because of all the things He had done.

More and more people came, bringing their friends with them. Soon the streets were just lined with people who had come to watch Jesus ride through the streets to Jerusalem.

They were so happy. They wanted Jesus to be their king and do even more miracles. To show Jesus how much they loved Him, the people threw their coats into the street for the donkey to walk on. Then they broke branches from the palm trees nearby and waved them to Jesus. Some threw the palm branched into the streets. They began to call out to Jesus, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the son of David!" They were trying to show Jesus how much they loved Him.

Some of the leaders who heard the people calling to Jesus became angry, "Master, tell them to be quiet! They said. But Jesus didn't stop the people. He liked them to show their love for Him. They kept calling, "Hosanna! Hosanna! To the King!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.



Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



**People waved palm branches
as Jesus rode into town.**

