

# HOSANNA!

## **God's Word:**

*Mark 11:1-11*

## **Key Verse:**

"AND THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE, AND THOSE WHO FOLLOWED  
AFTER, WERE CRYING OUT, 'HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;'"

MARK 11:9

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## **Breaking It Down:**

This week's lesson from Mark 11 describes what's known as "the triumphal entry" into Jerusalem. But before that, in Mark 10:32-34, Jesus warned His disciples of what was to come when they entered Jerusalem. The Lord foretold that He would be falsely accused, delivered to the chief priest and scribes, and ultimately condemned to death. Jesus let His disciples know that although He would be beaten, mocked, and killed, that would not be the end. He would rise again on the third day.



In Mark chapter 11, Jesus is near the end of His earthly journey. Jesus continues en route to Jerusalem with His disciples. He also has a great number of people following Him to Jerusalem. Along the way, He stopped in Jericho and had an encounter with blind Bartimaeus, whom He later healed and who immediately followed Jesus, too. According to Luke's account, as Jesus neared the holy city, He knew the people were looking for the kingdom of God to come. In their minds His coming meant immediate political power, restoration, and freedom from Roman rule.

Jesus had set out toward the Holy City of Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. This celebration marks the remembrance of God's great act of deliverance of His people from Egyptian slavery with His mighty hand. At the original Passover (Exodus 11 and 12), the blood of an unblemished lamb was placed on

the doorpost of every Israelite, and the death angel passed over them. But the Egyptians endured God's final plague – the death of their firstborn - for Pharaoh's defiance.

In Mark 11, as Jesus approached Jerusalem, He sent two of His disciples ahead and gave them specific instructions to obtain a colt that was tied up and had never been ridden. Just as Jesus was without blemish or sin, it was fitting that the animal He rode upon also would be untouched. Jesus told the disciples to untie it and bring it to Him. When asked what they were doing, they were to say, “The Lord needs it” (Mark 11:3, NLT). Everything occurred just as Jesus said it would, and the disciples obtained the colt on His behalf. Zechariah prophesied that the King would come with great rejoicing, riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9). This prophecy was fulfilled; Jesus was able to command attention and to get what He needed because He is Lord.

The people rejoiced with “Hosannas” as Jesus made His final entry into Jerusalem. They cried out, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!”

“Hosanna,” the Holman Bible Dictionary says, is a Hebrew or Aramaic prayer that means “Save now” or “Save, we beseech thee.” Here, the people appear to recognize Jesus as Savior, the prophesied Messiah, who came to save God’s people.

But it wouldn’t be long before shouts of joy would turn to words of condemnation and Jesus - the lamb symbolized in the first Passover – would become “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

He would become the answer to the “Hosanna” prayer, The Answer for all people who acknowledge and accept Him as Savior and Messiah.

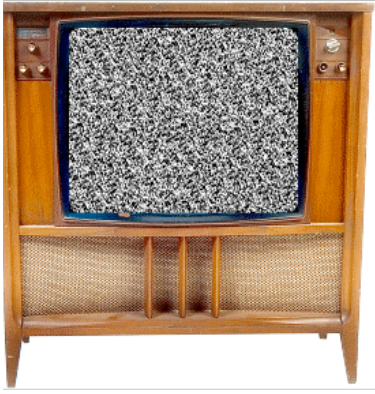
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### **Living It:**

Reggie was always a star. He was an athlete and a scholar throughout his high school and college years. Reggie was also a top draft pick for a leading National Football League team in the first round, and he was excited about his future. He had just signed a major deal with his new team and was primed to be a franchise player. With his mother and fiancée in the audience, he accepted his new team jersey as the press took pictures and asked questions. As he left the press conference, fans cheered for him. People were screaming his name; fans were trying to get his attention, maybe even an autograph or a picture with him. Reggie thought to himself, I have really arrived; all of my dreams are coming true!



Athletes, entertainers, political figures, and the like are esteemed by the public for their abilities and achievements. However, only what we do for Christ will last, and only God is worthy of such lavish praise and adulation.



Everyone today is seeking their 15 minutes of fame, and technology has made it possible for anyone who is willing to get noticed. More importantly, our world worships daily at the altar of celebrity through the media. Consequently, voyeurism in our society is born from people coveting praise and adulation. People spend more time swooning over fleshy carnal things than they spend praising the mighty King who gave His life to save ours. There is nothing wrong with fame in the right perspective; there are many people who use their celebrity to bring attention to worthy causes. But we as believers must keep fame and fortune in their rightful places by giving all glory and credit to the One who makes it possible. God rewards those who diligently seek Him, but we must never forget the Giver of the gift.

Those who follow Jesus must humbly submit to His authority. We must pave the way for the coming King with hearts that are yielded to His Lordship and expressed through prayer, praise, and worship.

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### **Understanding It:**

1. Before reaching Jerusalem, what did Jesus send the disciples in search of?
2. What did Jesus tell them to do if they were stopped?
3. Like the palm tree, even in tough times, how can you maintain an attitude of gratitude through prayer and praise?
4. How do you anticipate the Lord's triumphant return at His second coming?

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### **Doing It!**

Every day is a day of thanksgiving! Therefore, it should be a way of life and not an afterthought for Christians to lavish praise on our worthy King. Since the Lord inhabits the praises of His people, we can have unbroken fellowship with Him by blessing Him at all times and keeping His praises continually in our mouths. This week practice “doing it.”

