

Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – April 05, 2020

Main Text: Matthew 21:1-11

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration **Topic:** The Triumphant Entry

Key verse: Matthew 21:9 – *‘Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Every year, Christians all over the world celebrate the Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday Christians remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The day also marks the beginning of Jesus’ last week on earth. Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem started all the way from Galilee, through Jericho and down the Kidron valley. And a crowd which followed Him from Jericho (Matthew 20:29) was joined by the crowd of those in Jerusalem who had heard of His coming (John 12:12). Together, this multitude ushered Jesus into Jerusalem in a most unusual manner. Matthew 21:8-9 tells us that the multitude *‘... spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”* (NKJV). Such a rousing welcome would make even an Emperor giddy with pride. But Jesus is obviously not impressed by it. Entering the Temple, HE condemned the people for turning His Father’s house to a *‘hangout for thieves’* (Matthew 21:13 MSG). And told the religious leaders, *“See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”* (Matthew 23:38-39 NKJV)

1. (a) Let participants share what they understand by *“‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!* (b) Why do you think Jesus was unimpressed with the loud compliment accorded Him by the crowd? What lesson(s) is in it for us? See Matthew 23:23, 25, 37 (c) Therefore, what will an acceptable worship of God look like?

In 1 Kings 1:11-27, after David confirmed Solomon as his successor, he had Solomon ride into Jerusalem on his royal donkey rather than on a royal chariot! King Solomon’s entry riding on the royal mule dissolved Adonijah’s plot to usurp the throne. Similarly, Jesus, on this historic occasion, rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. And we are told that this fulfilled a more than 500-year-old prophecy: *‘Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; HE is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey’* (Zechariah 9:9 NKJV). This is one prophecy the average Jew knew by heart and has been waiting for – for the promised Messiah who will ride in victoriously and deliver them from captivity.

2. (a) Compared to the Kings and or victorious generals of the day who would have galloped in on spangled horses, what can we learn from Jesus’ riding on the foal of a donkey instead of on the best thoroughbred horse available, contrary to the expectation of the Jews? (b) How should these lessons affect our attitude and daily walk as Christians?

‘As He made His entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What is going on here? Who is this?” (Matthew 21:10 MSG). Perhaps, nothing has caused such a stir in Jerusalem, possibly for as long as the people there could remember. For such a question coming from so many troubled hearts, only a simple answer would suffice: *‘The parade crowd answered, “This is the Prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”* In one simple answer, a seemingly unlearned unruly crowd (John 7:50) recognized the fulfilment of a prophecy about the Messiah. See Isaiah 9:1-2

3. (a) How do you think the learned religious leaders missed the identity of the Messiah despite clear prophecies linking the Messiah with Galilee and environs (Isaiah 9:1-2)? See also John 1:46. What can we do, individually and as a church to ensure that we don’t fall in the error of these religious leaders? (b) In John 7:45- 52, the religious leaders fancied themselves as the ones to decide who the Messiah would be or not be rather than relying on the written inerrant word of God (the Bible). What is the danger in this posturing, to both the leaders and the led? How can it be avoided?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, today I willingly and fully embrace You as the Lord of my life. And I am saying that Your will be done, Your Kingdom come in my life and in the world. Amen