

EASTER MESSAGES 2011
A DAY OF UNUSUAL CELEBRATION
MATTHEW 21:1–11; LUKE 19:28–36, 39–44



The Heart of the Matter

What a study in contrast. On Palm Sunday 1865, the American Civil War came to an end. One side marched off in humiliating defeat, while the other side celebrated victory. One general appeared in his military finery — polished boots and sword — while the other wore a private's mud-splattered uniform and went sword-less. Before the week was through, the victorious president would be assassinated on Good Friday. On the original Palm Sunday, the contrasts between Jesus's mission, the people's expectations, and the disciples' confusion were just as stark as the contrast between the appearance of Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. And what Christ calls us to do stands in stark contrast to the calling of our culture.



Discovering the Way

1. Traveling with Jesus from Jericho to Jerusalem (Luke 19:28–36)

After telling His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to die and rise again (Luke 18:31–35), Jesus entered Jericho and began the long climb to the capital city (19:1).

2. Jesus's Triumphal Entry Was the Fulfillment of Prophecy (Matthew 21:1–11; Luke 19:39–40)

Jesus fulfilled the promises of Psalm 118:25–26 and Zechariah 9:9, yet the religious leaders scorned Him.

3. Jesus Wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44)

On the day of triumph, Jesus wept over the city because He knew His rejection and crucifixion were sure.



Starting Your Journey

We've walked where Jesus walked, from Jericho to Jerusalem. Now let's walk as Jesus walked by applying these four statements to our lives. First, always take the path of obedience. Second, always walk toward the challenge. Third, always remember that God can do the impossible. Fourth, always leave room in your life for compassion.



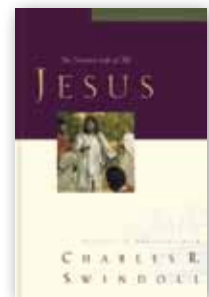
Tools for Digging Deeper



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