

Jesus' entry in Jerusalem

△ Matt 21:1-11, 23:37-39

Intro

Tell the story of preach in
Hawkenbury

That Bethphage & The Mount of Olives
are at the east of Jerusalem

That the East Gate of Jerusalem is
traditionally the gate that the King
would enter

And that for a time it was shut

For only the Messiah to enter

44 Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. ² The Lord said to me, "This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered through it. ³ The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the Lord. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way."

△ Ezek 44:1-3

Jesus instructing the disciples

The reference of v5 to Zech 9:9

The disciples finding the donkey and
the colt and bringing her to Jesus

the son, and bringing her to Jesus

The large crowd singing and shouting hosanna

The palm leaves and cloaks spread on the road

Jesus moving slowly to Jerusalem, up the hill

Coming to the brow of the hill and looking out of Jerusalem

"And I teared up"

I felt some of the grief that Jesus felt on that day

And I remembered the image of Jesus wanting to gather Jerusalem to himself as hen gathers her chicks under her wings

And I felt his grief, the sorrow

I had to pause a bit before I could continue

Background

This morning: third prayer ministry and communion service

But I had not realised that it was Palm Sunday

How to link the both themes together?

Shall we cancel the prayer ministry?

So I prayed

And Jesus brought this memory
and the image of the hen and the
chicks to me

They readings are not close
together

But for me they are now closely
related

Of what I felt that day when I was
preaching

Jesus is the King who loves us

The way that Jesus enters
Jerusalem, proclaims that he is a
King

Not a conquering King

But one who is the rightful King

In peace on a donkey

As per the prophecies of the Old
Testament

And initially people were
enthusiastic

Crowds, waving, singing

But when they realised what he
wanted

For people to love God above all

To gather them under his wings

But this is not what they wanted

They wanted to have control of their own lives, and destiny

and please kick the Romans out

They wanted a God of power and might so that they could do the things they wanted to do

They did not have time for a God who wants to love them

and asks for love in return

A God who wants to transform his subjects, so that they follow him

And they rejected him

Link between the passages

The crowds shouted

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Ps 118:26

In that Psalm we have references to:

This is the gate of the Lord, and the righteous shall enter through it

^ v20

Jesus was the only one who was righteous

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone

^ v 22

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

^ v26

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
You are my God, and I will extol you.

[^]v28

This is the Messiah!

At Palm Sunday people were able to shout this

As they recognised him as the Messiah

But later on the sentiment had faded, and it would turn into "Crucify Him"

But Jesus warns them

"You will not see me again, until you say 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'"

Because they and we cannot see Jesus, unless we except him as Messiah

Gathering under his wings

What was true for Jerusalem just before his Crucifixion

Is true today for us as well

Picture of the sheep in a field

Contently browsing and eating grass

Unaware of danger

Not looking towards the shepherd

Even as Christians we may be in the same situation

We have accepted Jesus as Saviour

But we are not letting him in into our lives

We are not letting him gather us under his wings

"How often ... you were not willing"

How painful is it sometimes to see people you love struggling, but they do not accept help

Can you imagine how painful it is for Jesus to see us struggling, while we do not accept help?

He wants to help us

But often we do not look for, or except his help

Are you struggling with something today?

It does not need to be a physical problem

Maybe a decision you need to take

How to support your family

Life decisions

Where to live, where to work

Jesus wants to gather you under his wings

Do not be stubborn but come to him

Katrina testimony

