

Encounter Church
Sunday April 02, 2023

The Passion of Christ

Zechariah 9:9- "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."

A Prophecy of Jesus Christ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week he is to later go to the cross and then three days later be resurrected from the grave!

There's no historical record for Zechariah giving this prophecy, The only explanation is that he was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to write this some 400 years before it came to pass.

In Matthew 21 we read and see the prophecy fulfilled.

Matthew 21:6-11- "So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great 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!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Hosanna- "**Save Now!**"

This was a plea from an oppressed people to their Savior for deliverance!

Although their deliverance would come in a way they did not expect!

All the city was "moved." - ***This word "moved" is often used of an earthquake showing that the dramatic arrival of Jesus was causing a great commotion in Jerusalem!***

This lowly King had caused quite a commotion!

Lowly- ***A humility that is considerate, unassuming, gentle, mild, meek. Jesus showed a great power than armed might, the power of humble wisdom and penetrating love!***

Jesus was such a nice guy! He almost sounds passive doesn't He?

Matthew 21:12-13- “Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

WHAT??? Is this the same person who just humbly rode into the city on a colt?

And now He’s overturning tables in the temple because they had commercialized the sacrificial system!

They had turned the temple into a den of thieves when it was supposed to be a place where people met with God! “A PLACE OF PRAYER!”

My friends, Jesus did not die on the cross to get you to heaven! Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected three days later to get you and me to God!

At the beginning of “passion week” we need to know or be reminded that Jesus passion is YOU!

AND HE WANTS NOTHING TO COME BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER!

(SHARE THE STORY OF MY ENCOUNTER WITH GOD THIS PAST WEEK.)

CONCLUSION: What tables does Jesus need to turn over in your life today so that you can have this passionate relationship with your Heavenly Father that loves you unconditionally. HE WANTS YOU!

Genesis 3:9- “Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

1. God pursues you in your sin. God is moving toward you!
2. He questions you. Just tell the truth.
3. He provides a covering for you!

1John 1:9- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16- “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.