

TODAY'S READING:

John 12:9-19

THE NEXT DAY THE GREAT CROWD THAT HAD COME FOR THE FESTIVAL HEARD THAT JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM. THEY TOOK PALM BRANCHES AND WENT OUT TO MEET HIM, SHOUTING, "HOSANNA!" "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!" "BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL!"

- JOHN 12:12-13

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey, it was the first time since raising Lazarus from the dead that he'd shown his face in the city. The story of Lazarus's resurrection had circulated so many considered Jesus to be a celebrity. Everyone wanted to get a selfie with Jesus. They went out to meet Him and received him like a King. Well, not everyone, the religious leaders plotted to have Jesus killed.

Surprisingly, Jesus would embrace death and reject the coronation-like shouts of the crowd. He would embrace death in order to conquer death. As he rode into Jerusalem, the people cried, "Our King has come!" They praised Jesus because of His victory over Lazarus's death. But ironically, Jesus wasn't coming to claim his crown on account of Lazarus's death and resurrection, but on account of his own.

- Pastor Jonathan Smith

SUN
APR
10

DAY ONE
PALM SUNDAY

