

**Palm Sunday**  
***The King Who Divides the Crowd***  
Sunday, March 29, 2026

**Matthew 21:1-11 NIV**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”  
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- 1. The Crowd that Praises-but Misunderstands.**
- 2. The Crowd that Resists because They Feel Threatened.**
- 3. The Same Crowd Can Shift.**
- 4. The King Who Came Anyway.**

**Conclusion:** Palm Sunday isn't just about welcoming Jesus—it's about surrendering to the King He actually is. Jesus didn't come to be the King we imagined—He came to be the King we needed.

**LIFE GROUP LESSON**  
***The King Who Divides the Crowd***  
Week of March 29th, 2026- April 4th, 2026

**Ice Breaker:** Where in your life has your mind said yes to something but your heart hadn't yet followed, or vice versa?

**Read Matthew 21:1-11.**

5. What did Jesus ask His disciples to do? (vs.1-2)
6. What did Jesus tell them to say if someone questioned them? (v.3)
7. Would that be a weird request for them? Why?
8. What was the purpose of having the colt? (vs.4-5)
9. Read Zechariah 9:9. Is this what happened?
10. What does a donkey represent when a king rides it?
11. How do we see the disciples respond? (vs.6-7)
12. What can we learn from their response even though they didn't likely understand why?
13. How did some of the crowd respond? Why? (v.8)
14. What were some of the people shouting? What did they see? (v.9)
15. Read Luke 19:39-40. What was the response of others to the praise?
16. How did Jesus respond? What was He making known?
17. Read Luke 19:41-42. What saddens Jesus? What does He desire for all to know?
18. Read John 12:19. What were the Pharisees concerned about? What would that mean for them; their power and status?
19. What happens when we feel threatened? How do we respond?
20. Why might Jesus feel threatening to some yet today? Why might He feel threatening to you in some ways?
21. How can we genuinely praise Jesus in one moment and then turn from Him in another? What is happening in our heart?
22. Why would God have Jesus enter in this dramatic way, what was He looking to reveal?
23. How are we like the crowd?
24. Have you held your own expectation or image of who you thought Jesus should be? Have you surrendered those to accept who He is?

**Point to ponder:** The King we surrender to today is the King who surrendered Himself for us.