

## Jesus Rides on a Donkey?

### Lesson 11

## Matthew 21:1-11

### Memory verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

### Opener

Have you ever seen a parade where lots of people were shouting and excited? Sometimes, in a parade, important or famous people come by and everyone cheers or claps.

It was a special time of year for Jesus and His friends. A special celebration feast was coming up. It was kind of like our Thanksgiving. Lots of people traveled to the big city of Jerusalem to celebrate. Jesus and His friends were on their way there too.

### Scripture

**Matthew 21:1-3**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

**Ask: What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?**

On the way, Jesus sent two of His disciples to the next town to get a donkey and her colt.

### Discussion

**Ask: What did Jesus tell the disciples to say?**

Jesus specifically told them that if anyone asked what they were doing, to let them know that the Lord needed them.

**Matthew 21:4-7**

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them

**Ask: What does the Bible say happened?**

The two friends traveled to the town and found a donkey and colt just like Jesus said! They untied them and started back. Quickly they came to Jesus and laid a blanket on the back of the donkey. Jesus sat on it and rode into town.

**Matthew 21:8-11**

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

News that Jesus was coming traveled fast. Soon everyone was excited to know that Jesus was coming! Moms and dads ran with their children and friends to see Jesus riding into town. So many people wanted to see Jesus that it was like a parade. They stood on the sides waiting for Him to come by!

**Ask: What did the people do for Jesus?**

Some people wanted to honor or revere Jesus because they knew that He was someone special. They broke off palm branches from the trees and laid them down in the road where Jesus would come. Others took off their coats and laid them down to show how much they loved Jesus.

**Ask: What did the children do?**

In the streets, they could hear children and adults singing and shouting. They were thrilled that Jesus was coming! Others were saying the word "Hosanna!" which is a word that means "Savior" or "a person who will help save others." They stood in awe of Jesus because they knew who He was!

**Ask: What does God want us to do?**

Just like the people showed honor and respect to Jesus, He asks us to do the same. We must revere Him and show Him that we love Him.

**Ask: What did the people think Jesus would do?**

At this special time there was so much excitement in the air. Everyone was so happy to see Jesus. They thought He was going to be the new King of the world. They did not understand until later that Jesus was not going to be that kind of King. They were right that He came to "save" them, but not by being the new King. Jesus "saved" them and us by doing something even better!

**Ask: Why did Jesus come?**

Jesus came to die in our place so that if we believe and trust Him, He will be King of our hearts and lives.

**Ask: Would you like Jesus to be the King of your heart?**

**Romans 10:9-10**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.