



Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them', and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Some things to think about...

- What do you picture when you think of a King? What does a king wear, how does he travel?
- Jesus is described as a king - what is different about the way he arrives in this story?

Activity

- On your palm template, write words describing Jesus e.g. leader, kind etc. Think of any other names that we have for Jesus e.g. 'King of Kings', 'Saviour.'
- Which of the titles of Jesus do you think is the best one for Jesus?
- Now with your palms, perhaps you can re-enact the story together.

Teacher's Notes

Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week, celebrates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem before his death and resurrection. Jesus walked all the way from Galilee except for the last two miles and this is the only time he is recorded as riding on a donkey, so this must have been a deliberate gesture. Matthew shows in the Gospel that Jesus is humble and not a military leader. We can learn from this that Jesus is a servant king.

The crowd puts their cloaks on the ground acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah and to demonstrate that they were willing to give their all. We do the same in our Mini Vinnies mission because we give our time, gifts and talents to Jesus by serving others.

This week is a good week to show how Jesus turns leadership/kingship upside-down. As Vincentians we are inspired by Jesus' way of serving others, with great humility, generosity and gentleness.

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