

Jesus goes to Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11, 14-16

Mark 11:1-11

Luke 19:28-40

John 12:12-19

“Have you heard about Jesus?” people were saying. “Have you heard about the things he says and does? Everybody knows Jesus!”

Jesus was becoming very famous. Some people began to wonder, “Is Jesus the Messiah? Is this the one God promised?”

Many people thought the Messiah would be like an army general. The Messiah would gather soldiers and fight the Romans. The Messiah would kill the people they didn't like.

Some of Jesus' disciples, like Peter, were sure Jesus was the Messiah. But even Peter sometimes thought the Messiah would be a general.

Because Jesus was famous, crowds of people came to see him wherever he went. So Jesus decided to show the people something important.

“I am going to go into Jerusalem,” Jesus said to his disciples. “I want you to get me a donkey, so I can ride it into the city.”

“A donkey? Why not a big, strong horse?”

“No, a donkey. A small, young donkey. I don't want to go into Jerusalem like a general on a horse. I don't want to fight. If I ride



on a donkey, people will know that I am coming to bring peace.”

The crowds gathered on both sides of the road when they heard Jesus was coming. They cheered and shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Some of them threw down their clothes so the donkey could walk on something soft. Others cut down some branches from trees for the donkey to walk on.



“Hosanna! Hosanna!” shouted the crowds. Hosanna means “Save us now.”

Jesus didn’t like that. “They still think I’m going to be a general,” he thought. “They think I’ve come to fight the Romans.”

Most of the rulers didn’t understand Jesus either. They thought a Messiah had to be a general who would fight people. They didn’t understand what Jesus was trying to show them, when he rode into the city on a donkey.

When the rulers heard the people shout “Hosanna! Save us now!” they began to feel afraid.

“If Jesus is going to be the Messiah, then he will be the ruler instead of us. We’d better find a way to kill him. Soon!”

