

## Who is this Hosanna-Maker?

‡ **Your coming King** (vv. 1-5)

‡ **The blessed Son of David** (vv. 6-10)

In the name of Jesus, our Lord and King, dearly redeemed children of God:

One of the most amazing, troublesome things about American religion today is how complicated we Americans make it. God gives us one Good Book called the Holy Bible to guide our steps through life to heaven, but we're so busy with other things that few Americans have read even one of the several Bibles in their homes. God gives us one Christ, His only begotten Son, to serve as our Savior and Messiah, but we succumb to the "Oprahization of America" by tolerating practically anyone else who stands forth as a priest, pastor or guru. Not that we would want less religious freedom. But why do Christians who know better seem to know so little though we have only one Good Book to study?

God makes it very simple. You can boil the whole Bible down to one straight forward question: "Who is Jesus?" From Genesis through Revelation, the sixty-six Bible books claiming inspiration by the Holy Spirit all help answer that single question. And since this is not some academic exercise, but rather the question that decides where each of us will spend eternity, we could ask the question this way: "Who is Jesus *for you*?" As this year's Lenten journey reaches its climax, we want to know the answer to the same question in Palm Sunday clothes: **Who is this Hosanna-Maker?** The answer is solid gold.

‡ **Your coming King** (vv. 1-5)

According to Luke's Gospel, Jesus began His resolute journey to Jerusalem back in 9:51 and takes ten chapters to get there. When He does, John reports that crowds inside the city heard the Teacher from Galilee was coming, the same one who had raised Lazarus from the dead. It's hard to imagine the spectacular sight as Jesus topped the rise at the Garden of Gethsemane across the Kidron Valley just west of the Temple. Crowds going out to meet Him, crowds following – the whole city astir, but who is He?

Matthew reports with such simplicity that we almost miss the point: *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."*

How did Jesus know this? No one picked up a cell phone to call Jesus and tell Him a donkey with her colt is waiting. Yet Jesus not only informs His disciples about the animals, but what to say if anyone asks. The owners did according to Luke, and Jesus' answer satisfied them. If Bible critics think this is so easy, let them try entering the Twin Cities on any highway where they can tell their followers that a new SUV is waiting with an ATV on a trailer it. Then see if the owners will let them take both vehicles – as long as they promise to bring them right back. Even if they would, you wouldn't have the miracle we have here unless your ATV driver is a blind quadriplegic. Not a fair comparison? Try riding an unbroken donkey colt sometime. You may end up a blind quadriplegic, unless you see first who Jesus really is!

Still there is more to this miracle. In fact, what really gives us the gold is an ancient prophecy to answer, **Who is this Hosanna-Maker?** Think about it this way: Can anyone tell me what street you will be driving twelve days from now at exactly 9:46 AM? Who knows but God? What if you read a book by Thomas Jefferson that told you? "But Pastor, Thomas Jefferson lived over 200 years ago when there was no Twin Cities." Do you see? Matthew looks back 400 years to Zechariah's God-inspired prediction:

*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.’”*

**Your coming King** must be God Almighty. He knows exactly where He is going and how many centuries in advance. Gently and humbly as the tender Savior of our souls, Jesus shows Himself to be Ruler over all creation. He tames a donkey’s colt with its mother right there. What an awesome **King!**

But the real question is this: Is Jesus Christ **Your coming King**? You gladly submit to His Lordship as long as your life is going along smoothly. It’s easy to accept His rule when the car is working, the checkbook is full and the kids are healthy. But lose your job or your friends because you are a Christian, and you may start to wonder whether Jesus is really worth it. “They will be done” sounds good in church, but is it practical for real life? Is **this Hosanna-Maker Your coming King**?

### ✠ **The blessed Son of David** (vv. 6-10)

What if Jesus stopped on a hill overlooking your house? How would you feel if tears started streaming down His cheeks and He said something like this? *“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”* (Luke 19:42-44 NIV)

Oh, Jesus, are we really so much like your ancient Jewish people who stoned your prophets and worshiped other gods? My fellow sinners, it’s far worse than that. We have been guilty of what the prophets called spiritual adultery and prostitution. Even though most of us have known all our lives that Jesus is our heavenly Bridegroom and we are His bride, the Church, yet we fall into the same sins as the Jews of Ezekiel’s day. We not only give our hearts and souls to other lovers besides Jesus, but we pay these soul destroyers to take us. We spend more for entertainment and toys than any culture in history. Even though we are blessed with more leisure time than most people, yet new Christians know their Bibles better than we because they love the Word of God. My dear brother in Christ, Xiao Qing, had only been a believer for a few months. Yet he had read his Bible so thoroughly that he could find any passage. And after two years of study when he was ready to go back to China, he knew chapter and verse better than I. In painfully cutting honesty, we must all confess a kind of spiritual prostitution for giving our hearts and souls to other lovers besides Jesus, God’s own Son, our heavenly Bridegroom.

But this is what makes me love Jesus all the more. He came to this earth to die. That first Palm Sunday, Jesus knew what lay ahead with divine knowledge that could already feel the scourging. Jesus saw the Jewish religious leaders, jealous of His popularity for raising Lazarus, and plotting to kill them both. Jesus foresaw how the Gentile Romans would carry out the death sentence in the cruelest, most painful means available. Still Jesus accepted the prayers and praises of the crowds: *“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”* To save them as the **Son of David** promised 1000 years before, would require Jesus as the LORD’s Christ to put Himself under the wrath of God in our place. He would have to suffer as the faithful husband for us, His unfaithful idol-whoring bride. Most men would have left. Any man who knew the future would not have gone anywhere near Jerusalem. Yet **The blessed Son of David** pressed on to save us all.

We don’t have time to consider all the details today. But I can ask you this one more time: **Who is this Hosanna-Maker?** More importantly, **Who is this Hosanna-Maker – for you?** Your most honest answer will not be as much with your mouth, as with your hands and feet and schedule. It will be most clear and vividly apparent by where your heart is this Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 PM. Where your heart find rest on the very next Sunday known these days as Easter. May God fill your heart to overflowing with the eternal love of His own Christ – **The blessed Son of David**, and more personally, **Your coming King**, that your lips and life may always ring with, *“Hosanna in the highest!”* Amen.