

The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21	Mark 11	Luke 19
1 _{a} When they came near to Jerusalem, [...]	1 _{a} When they came near to Jerusalem, [...]	28 Having said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
1 _{b} [...] and came to Bethsphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,	1 _{b} [...] to Bethsphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,	29 When he came near to Bethsphage and Bethany, at the mountain that is called Olivet, he sent two of his disciples,
2 saying to them, “Go into the village that is opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them, and bring them to me.”	2 and said to them, “Go your way into the village that is opposite you. Immediately as you enter into it, you will find a young donkey tied, on which no one has sat. Untie him, and bring him.”	30 saying, “Go your way into the village on the other side, in which, as you enter, you will find a colt tied, which no man had ever sat upon. Untie it, and bring it.”
3 “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and immediately he will send them.”	3 “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs him;’ and immediately he will send him back here.”	31 “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say to him: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

Matthew 21	John 12
4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying,	14 _{a} [...] As it is written,
5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, behold, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ¹	15 “Don’t be afraid, daughter of Zion. Behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey’s colt.”
	16 His disciples didn’t understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about him, and that they had done these things to him.

Matthew 21	Mark 11	Luke 19
6 _{a} The disciples went, [...]	4 _{a} They went away, [...]	32 _{a} Those who were sent went away, [...]
6 _{b} [...] and did just as Jesus commanded them,		

¹ Mt 21:5; Jn 12:15 ref: Zechariah 9:9.

Mark 11	Luke 19
4 _{b} [...] and found a young donkey tied at the door outside in the open street, [...]	32 _{b} [...] and found things just as he had told them.
4 _{c} [...] and they untied him.	33 _{a} As they were untying the colt, [...]
5 Some of those who stood there asked them, “What are you doing, untying the young donkey?”	33 _{b} [...] its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”
6 _{a} They said to them just as Jesus had said, [...]	34 They said, “The Lord needs it.”
6 _{b} [...] and they let them go.	

Matthew 21	Mark 11	Luke 19	John 12
7 _{a} and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their clothes on them; [...]	7 _{a} They brought the young donkey to Jesus, and threw their garments on it, [...]	35 _{a} They brought it to Jesus. They threw their cloaks on the colt, [...]	
7 _{b} [...] and he sat on them.	7 _{b} [...] and Jesus sat on it.	35 _{b} [...] and set Jesus on them.	14 _{b} Jesus, having found a young donkey, sat on it. [...]
			12 _{b} [...] a great multitude had come to the feast. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ²
8 _{a} A very great multitude spread their clothes on the road. [...] ³	8 _{a} Many spread their garments on the way, [...]	36 As he went, they spread their cloaks on the road.	
8 _{b} [...] Others cut branches from the trees, and spread them on the road. ⁴	8 _{b} [...] and others were cutting down branches from the trees, and spreading them on the road.		13 _{a} they took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet him, [...]
		37 _{a} As he was now getting near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, [...]	

² The energetic crowds initially present at the Triumphal Entry seem to be composed of Galileans who were in town for the Passover (Jn 12:12b). They were much more enthusiastic about Jesus’ ministry than the Judeans, having witnessed so many of His miracles. Also included, were those who had been in Bethany to witness the resurrection of Lazarus; their testimonies had drawn the Galileans’ attention to the fact that Jesus was in town (Jn 12:17-18). The Judeans were much more skeptical about Jesus, with local residents inquiring what the fuss was about (Mt 21:10) and the Pharisees bemoaning the entire spectacle (Lk 19:39; Jn 12:19). Within a week, the Judean crowds would become much more vocal, turning on Jesus and demanding His crucifixion.

³ Spreading their garments on the road (Mt 21:8a; Mk 11:8a; Lk 19:36) was something the people would have done for a king. The crowds seem to misunderstand the Messiah as a conquering, earthly king.

⁴ The palm branches used (Mt 21:8b; Mk 11:8b; Jn 12:13a) would have had the same purpose and effect as the garments in note 3 above.

Matthew 21	Mark 11	Luke 19	John 12
9_{a} The multitudes who went in front of him, and those who followed, kept shouting, [...]	9_{a} Those who went in front, and those who followed, cried out, [...]	37_{b} [...] the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen,	13_{b} [...] and cried out, [...]
9_{b} [...] “Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” [...] ⁵	9_{b} [...] “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”	38_{a} saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” [...]	13_{c} [...] “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!”
9_{c} [...] “Hosanna in the highest!” ⁶	10 “Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”	38_{b} [...] “Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!”	

Luke 19	John 12
	17 The multitude therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb, and raised him from the dead, was testifying about it.
	18 For this cause also the multitude went and met him, because they heard that he had done this sign.
39 Some of the Pharisees from the multitude said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”	
40 He answered them, “I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out.”	
	19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “See how you accomplish nothing. Behold, the world has gone after him.”

Luke 19
41 When he came near, he saw the city and wept over it,
42 saying, “If you, even you, had known today the things which belong to your peace! But now, they are hidden from your eyes.”
43 “For the days will come on you, when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, surround you, hem you in on every side,”
44 “and will dash you and your children within you to the ground. They will not leave in you one stone on another, because you didn’t know the time of your visitation.”

⁵ Mt 21:9b; Mk 11:9b; Lk 19:38a; Jn 12:13c ref: Psalm 118:26. “Son of David” (Mt 21:9b), “King of Israel” (Lk 19:38a; Jn 12:13c), and “He Who comes in the name of the Lord” (Mt 21:9b; Mk 11:9b; Lk 19:38a; & Jn 12:13c) are titles used for the Messiah.

⁶ “Hosanna,” ὡσαννά (Mt 21:9c; Mk 11:10; Lk 19:38b), is a plea for the Messiah to save them—in this context, possibly from Roman rule.

Matthew 21	Mark 11
10 When he had come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”	
11 The multitudes said, “This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”	
	11 Jesus entered into the temple in Jerusalem. When he had looked around at everything, it being now evening, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.