

A Simple Gift

Scripture: John 12:12-16

Date: March 28, 2021

Message: *The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the king of Israel!"*

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Don't be afraid, Daughter Zion. Look! Your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt".

His disciples didn't understand these things at first. After he was glorified, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

John 12:12-16

The lone brown box stood out among the festive packages under our Christmas tree.

The sender had placed a sticker on the top – **"Do not open until December 25!"**

Each time I passed the tree it made me think how Jesus came into this world, not in a beautifully wrapped gift box, but in a plain brown box – a manger in a lowly stable.

Fast forward to his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Jesus did not enter as Herod would have, on a decorated majestic stallion, with all the pomp and circumstance of a king. Jesus once again came to us in a simple, humble way, on a donkey, down a different path and through a different gate.

That is how Jesus comes to us, in the still small moments of our lives.

He doesn't require us to receive him with great fanfare or elaborate celebration, just simply and quietly, asking him to come into our hearts to receive his love.

Welcome, Lord Jesus!

We are ready!

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, may we always be open and ready to receive you as our king. Amen.*

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