

# Do not be afraid

John 12:12-16; Zechariah 9:9-10 & Psalm 118:26-29

Palm Sunday

## Zechariah 9:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.  
He will proclaim peace to the nations.  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

## John 12:12-16

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come  
for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way  
to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and  
went out to meet him, shouting,  
"Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it  
is written:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your king is coming,  
seated on a donkey's colt."

<sup>16</sup> At first his disciples did not understand all  
this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they  
realize that these things had been written about  
him and that these things had been done to  
him.

**I think we're all  
afraid and feeling a  
little guilty.**

**We admire those  
who, in the face of  
fear, are brave so to  
save others.**

**We long for leaders  
like that.**

**God's people did too  
and God promised a  
King who would.**

Zech 9:9-10

**Jesus is that King.**

**The people  
recognised him.**

Jn 12:12-13

**Jesus deliberately  
showed them.**

Jn 12:14-15

**But the people  
didn't understand  
why?**

Jn 12:16

**But still our Lord  
would save them  
and us.**

**Do not be afraid.**

## Bible Study Questions

### Pray

Heavenly Father, give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means, and the will to put it into practice; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Read** Zechariah 9:9-10 then John 12:12-16.

### Questions:

1. About 500 years before Christ appeared the prophet Zechariah spoke of Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, King of God's people. What did God ask of his people to do through the prophet? (vs 9) Why? What will the Christ bring an end to, proclaim, and for whom and for how long? (vs 10)
2. Upon hearing that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem what did the crowd do? (See Jn 12 vs 12,13) Who did the people believe Jesus to be? Why?
3. Jesus deliberately found a young donkey, sat on it and rode into Jerusalem. In regards to the prophecy and the people's response to him, what do you think Jesus was saying about himself?
4. The "festival" mentioned in vs 12 was the Passover. What did that yearly festival remember? (*Clue: Think back to Moses, God's rescuer, and the story of the Exodus: out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land for God's people*). Jesus also deliberately chose this festival to enter Jerusalem. What do you think Jesus was saying about himself?
5. The disciple didn't understand this until after Jesus had risen from the dead, ascended and the Spirit had come. Proof of their misunderstanding (and that of the crowd) was seen in their actions and heard in the people's cries a week later (See Jn 19:14,15). What did the disciples do what did the crowd cry?
6. The Apostle John changed the words "Rejoice greatly" (Zech 9:9) to "Don't be afraid" (Jn 12:15 from Isa 40:9). Knowing why Jesus had to be crucified when he wrote his Gospel why do you think he made the change?

### Pray

Almighty, and everlasting God, in your tender love towards mankind you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to willingly take our nature upon himself and to suffer misunderstanding, shame and death upon a cross, that all mankind may know forgiveness and peace with you. Thank you, because of Jesus I rejoice greatly for I don't need to be afraid anymore.  
**Amen.**