

Sharing in Jesus' Risks: The Road to Jerusalem¹

Holy Cross Adult Formation – Lenten Series 2021 - Session 1 -
February 28, 2021

Risking REPUTATION

Questions to Think About

Read the four Gospel accounts of what we call Palm Sunday (on the next page), then answer the following questions.

- 1. Was Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem "triumphant"?**
- 2. Can you imagine how one's reputation could be sullied (risked)?**
- 3. Have you ever risked your reputation?**

¹ Based on Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, chapter 1, "Jerusalem: Risking Reputation," pp.21 – 41.

Matthew 21:1-11

The Triumphal Entry

¹Now when they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²telling them, “Go to the village ahead of you. Right away you will find a donkey tied there, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:

5“Tell the people of Zion, ‘Look, your king is coming to you, unassuming and seated on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶So the disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those following kept shouting, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!* ¹⁰Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰As he entered Jerusalem the whole city was thrown into an uproar, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Mark 11:1-11

The Triumphal Entry

¹Now as they approached Jerusalem, near Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here soon.’” ⁴So they went and found a colt tied at a door, outside in the street, and untied it. ⁵Some people standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶They replied as Jesus had told them, and the bystanders let them go. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸Many spread their cloaks on the road and others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Both those who went ahead and those who followed kept shouting, ***Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!***

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. And after looking around at everything, he went out to Bethany with the twelve since it was already late.

Luke 19:28-44

The Triumphal Entry

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he continued on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹Now when he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰telling them, Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²So those who were sent ahead found it exactly as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?” ³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt, and had Jesus get on it. ³⁶As he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen: ³⁸***Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!*** ³⁹Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your Session 1 – Hand-outdisciples.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if they keep silent, the very stones will cry out!”

Jesus Weeps for Jerusalem Under Judgment

⁴¹Now when Jesus approached and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you had only known on this day, even you, the things that make for peace!

⁴²But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and surround you and close in on you from every side. ⁴⁴They will demolish you—you and your children within your walls—and they will not leave within you one stone on top of another because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

John 12:12-18

The Triumphal Entry

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him. They began to shout, ***“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*** Blessed is the king of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵***“Do not be afraid, people of Zion; look, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt!”*** ¹⁶(His disciples did not understand these things when they first happened, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about him and that these things had happened to him.)

¹⁷So the crowd who had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead were continuing to testify about it. ¹⁸Because they had heard that Jesus had performed this miraculous sign, the crowd went out to meet him. ¹⁹Thus the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you can do nothing. Look, the world has run off after him!”