

Another Sign Rejected



Study Words



hosanna: (hō za' nə) Hebrew word that meant "save now"

prophecy: (prə' fə sē) words written by a prophet, telling what God said would happen in the future

Jesus gave the Jewish leaders many reasons to accept Him as the Messiah. He gave them many proofs that He was God's Son. From the very beginning all the signs pointed one way. All the Scriptures about the Messiah showed that Jesus of Nazareth was the One whom God had promised to send.

The scribes and Pharisees knew those Scriptures better than anyone else. They knew how the prophets had described the Messiah. However, Jesus had not yet fulfilled all the prophecies about Himself. Those prophecies were the most important ones to the scribes and Pharisees, so they ignored the others.

The miracles Jesus did were signs that Jesus was the Son of God. Those Jewish leaders had to decide whether or not to believe those signs. And from the beginning they chose to reject them.

But Jesus, with His great love even for

the scribes and Pharisees, kept giving more and more signs. Bringing Lazarus back to life was His latest one. However, the Jewish leaders had three problems.

One: They were bitterly jealous of Jesus' power and popularity. So they said He got His power from Satan. They tried to make Him appear to be a great sinner.

Two: They thought they were righteous. When Jesus showed the sinfulness in their hearts, they became very angry. They would not admit He was God's Son who had the right to call them to repentance.

Three: Jesus wasn't doing the things they wanted their Messiah to do, so they refused to follow Him.

Even those who believed He was the Messiah had wrong ideas about what He planned to do. They expected Him to be an earthly ruler, and they were ready to see that He was crowned King. That made a problem for Jesus, because that was not what He had

come to do. So when people He had healed realized He was the Son of God, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone." When the Jews came to force Him to be their king, He slipped away.

But now, Jesus was nearing the end of His life. Soon everyone would know the real reason why the Son of God had come to earth. And now He was willing for everyone to see Him as the Messiah, the Son of David, the King of the Jews. Now He would fulfill another prophecy about Himself. That would give the Jewish leaders one more sign, one last opportunity to accept Him.

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The day after Mary had given Jesus her special gift, He and the disciples started for Jerusalem. When they came to the Mount of Olives, He stopped and said to two of the disciples, "Go into the village. There you will see a donkey's colt tied. Loose it and bring it here. If anyone wonders why you are doing that, tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' Then he will let you bring it."

The disciples went to the village close by. And sure enough, they saw a colt tied beside a door near where two paths came together. They began to untie it.

The owner was standing there and

asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying my colt?"

"The Lord needs it," said the disciples.

"Oh, that's all right, then," said the owner.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus. They knew He planned to ride it the rest of the way to Jerusalem, so they put some of their robes on the donkey's back for Jesus to sit on.

As they moved toward the city, a huge crowd gathered and went with them. They began shouting and praising God for all the wonderful things Jesus had done. Some spread their garments in the road for the donkey to walk on. Others cut leafy palm branches from the trees along the way and scattered them in the way. Some of the people marched in front. Some followed behind. They cried, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna** to the Son of David! Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest Heaven!"

Did these people realize they were fulfilling **prophecy** written in their Scriptures? Had they ever read the words, "Rejoice greatly, daughter of Jerusalem. Shout, because your King comes to you. He is just and brings salvation. He is meek and

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riding on a donkey's colt”?

Yes, there rode the King of the Jews into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, just as the Scripture said. There were the happy people shouting and rejoicing because they believed Jesus was their King.

What a sign! What a plain sign that

Jesus was the promised Messiah! Jesus had planned it all to help the Jewish leaders believe in Him.

What did those leaders do with that sign? They did exactly what they had done with all the other signs Jesus had given. They rejected it.



FROM THE STORY

Match what was said with who said it.

1. _____ "The Lord needs it."
2. _____ "Hosanna to the Son of David!"
3. _____ "Go to the village . . . bring the colt."
4. _____ "Why are you untying the colt?"
5. _____ "Rejoice, daughter of Jerusalem."

- a. Jesus
- b. a prophet
- c. the disciples
- d. people in the crowd
- e. the donkey's owner

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

6. If the scribes and Pharisees admitted Jesus was God's Son,
 - a. they would need to obey His call to repentance.
 - b. He would do the things they thought a Messiah should do.
 - c. they would be as powerful and popular as He was.

THAT'S OUR GOD

Write *T* for true or *F* for false.

7. _____ The Pharisees accepted some of Jesus' signs.
8. _____ Jesus was the Son of David.
9. _____ The owner offered his colt when he saw the disciples.
10. _____ Many people believed Jesus was their King that day.
11. _____ The crowd knew more Scriptures than the scribes did.
12. _____ Jesus and the people fulfilled a prophecy that day.
13. _____ Jesus told the disciples what to expect when they found a colt.
14. _____ Jesus rode the donkey's colt into Jericho.

Lesson 3

WE REMEMBER

Write the letters of the correct answers.

15. Mary had _____ in a box of alabaster.

- a. alabaster
- b. spikenard ointment
- c. carved stone

16. Mary's gift was worth _____, _____.

- a. 300 pence
- b. a month's pay
- c. a year's pay

17. She poured her gift on Jesus to show _____ and _____.

- a. love and thankfulness
- b. concern for the poor
- c. her worship

18. One disciple said she _____ and _____.

- a. was anointing Jesus for His burial
- b. should have sold it
- c. could have helped the poor

19. Jesus told the disciples that they would always have the poor and that Mary's gift _____ and _____.

- a. anointed Him for burial
- b. was a waste of money
- c. would be told about wherever the Gospel is preached