



## A Life-Shaping Decision

Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

**The Mystery of Identity:** “Catch Me if You Can”

**Who was he—small h?** Pan Am pilot or Frank Abagnale, Jr., an imposter?

**Who was He—capital H?** King or Nazarene carpenter, an imposter?

**C. S. Lewis reduced the myriad of opinions about Jesus into three categories:**

- He was a **liar**: He knew he was not the Messiah but said he was.
- He was **Lord**: He knew He was the Messiah and said He was.
- He was a **lunatic**: He thought he was the Messiah but he was not.

**Here is some background of this event that we call “The Triumphal Entry” which happened on what we call “Palm Sunday.”**

- It was the time of the Feast of the Passover.
- Jewish historian Josephus estimated there were 2,700,000 people in Jerusalem.
- The key question was: “Who is Jesus?” Matthew 21:10 and John 11:56.

**Four men who knew Jesus personally believed He was the King and they gave a great deal of evidence to support this belief.**

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**The Message of this Event:** A life well-lived...submits to Jesus as King.

**There were two responses to Jesus’ presentation of Himself as Messiah and King:**

- **The disciples:** Yes, He is the King and He is worthy of praise and obedience.
- **The Jewish leaders and people:** No, He is not our King and we will kill Him.

**You heard all this now, “So What?” Two things that you must decide—must:**

**First, you need to decide about Jesus as SAVIOR.**

**Second, you need to decide about Jesus as KING of your life.**

*Jesus has lots of “fans” but far fewer “followers.”*

# “Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.*

## The “Triumphal Entry” on “Palm Sunday”

**Jesus presents Himself as the King or Messiah to His people the Jews.**

**The Message of this Event:** A life well-lived...submits to Jesus as King.

- **Each day please read:** Matthew 21:1-11, 14-17.
- **Today.** What is the evidence against the claim that Jesus was a liar who knew he was not the Messiah but said that he was? What is the evidence against the charge that Jesus was a lunatic who thought he was the Messiah but was not?
- **Monday.** What evidence can you list, both biblical and experiential, that Jesus is the Messiah?
- **Tuesday.** In order for Jesus to be the Savior of your life you must trust Him for the forgiveness of your sins. In order for Jesus to be the King of your life you must:  

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- **Wednesday.** What are the key areas of your life of which the Holy Spirit is convicting you of not living under the sovereign authority and rule of Jesus? What will you do about these?
- **Thursday.** What happened to change “Hosanna to the Son of David” into “Crucify Him!”?
- **Friday.** What had the disciples experienced to conclude that Jesus was the King?
- **Saturday.** Please consider the following distinction and complete:
  - A “**fan**” of the Houston Astros likes the team and occasionally checks the MLB standings and occasionally wanders out to the ballpark to watch the Astros live.
  - A “**follower**” of the Houston Astros loves the team and checks the standings every day and gets to the ballpark dozens of time a year and keeps a scorebook of every strike, ball, hit, error, substitution, and run.
  - A “**fan**” of Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_  
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  - A “**follower**” of Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Note for Connection Groups:* The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.