

**Introduction:** No one is able to paint a perfect 'picture' of who Jesus IS. One limitation is that humans are finite and Jesus is The Infinite God. Another limitation is that all humans have unique biases due to their sin nature. \*\*\* The classic book, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, by Albert Schweitzer presents the case that each book written about the historic Jesus had a different portrait of Him. In the first pages, Schweitzer puts forth his conclusion: There is no historical task which so reveals a man's true self as the writing of the life of Jesus. Many who have studied Schweitzer's book have observed: The authors portraits of Jesus are pale reflections of the writers themselves. John Dominic Crossan summarized his findings: Many writers do autobiography and call it biography. To sum it up, human pride and self-righteousness make it impossible to accurately know Jesus because all people have a tendency to reduce Him to themselves. \*\*\* The Palm Sunday ride into Jerusalem and the soon following event in the Temple courts both illustrate how people see who and what they want in a Savior. The crowds lining the street leading into Jerusalem thought the king on the colt of a donkey would conquer Rome and be the political king of Israel even greater than David had been. \*\*\* Children in the Temple courts, after seeing Him heal the blind and lame, simply praised Him for the wonderful things He was doing. *Jesus came to cleanse and to heal the needy.* \*\*\* But the chief priests and scribes were incapable of humble, dependent, obedient faith in Jesus. They saw the Torah as a complex guide to righteousness that was above the capacity of children to understand. So, they were indignant about the children and insisted Jesus correct them, the children. Instead He corrected them! \*\*\* As we now go deeper in God's Word, may The Holy Spirit correct our misunderstandings of who Jesus IS and how we should participate in His Mission in the here and now.

**I. Jesus rides into Jerusalem as people line the streets imploring Him to save them.** (*Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:25-29*)

- A. Having left the Mount of Olives, Jesus sends two disciples to a nearby village to take a donkey and her colt to Him to fulfill what Zechariah spoke. (*Matthew 21:1-7*)
1. When they came near to Jerusalem and came into Bethphage to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying, 'You must go into the village opposite you'. (*Verses 1-2a*)  
**Names:** Jerusalem means teaching of peace and Bethphage means house of figs.  
**Sent:** The two disciples sent by Jesus are not named; but, He never sent only one disciple on a kingdom mission, always a team.
  2. Immediately, you will find a donkey (who) has been tied, and a young colt with her, after untying, you must bring to Me. (*Verses 2b-c*)  
**Find:** Jesus specifically lays out the timing, with the details of a donkey and her son, indicating that He has planned everything that will happen.  
**Bring:** He commands the disciples to bring to Him.
  3. If any might say something to you, you will say that The Lord is having need of them, and immediately he will send them. (*Verse 3*)  
**Use My Name:** No disciple deserved respect. But, after three years of public ministry Jesus did! This happened in my first vocation. I asked a data processing manager for data to create a report for the senior boss of my department, third on the corporate depth chart. I did not get data in time to meet with him. He was not happy and simply told me, from now on use my name. It will light a fire under anyone. From that day on I did so and never had another problem!
  4. This was done that might be fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet: You all must tell the daughter of Zion: Behold! Thy king is coming to thee, meek and having mounted upon a young male donkey, the son of a female beast of the yoke. (*Verses 4-5*)  
**Zechariah:** This is from the prophet *Zechariah (9:9)*. Jesus rode on the young colt who had never been ridden (*Mark 11:1-7*). The main point is that King Jesus is meek, humble and gentle.
  5. Having gone and done just as Jesus instructed them, they led the female donkey and the young colt and placed clothes on them, and Jesus sat on them (the clothes). (*Verses 6-7*)  
**Obedience:** They obeyed every word of The Lord and placed clothes on the mother and colt.  
**Jesus:** The gender of the nouns clearly indicates Jesus sat on the clothes (on the young colt), thereby perfectly fulfilling the prophecy.
- B. As Jesus rides into Jerusalem the multitude along the way spread their clothes and were also cutting and spreading branches; and all were crying, 'Thou must save us, please!'. (*Matthew 21:8-11*)
1. The great crowd spread their clothes in the way, and others were cutting down branches from the trees and were spreading them in the way. (*Verse 8*)  
**Clothes:** Each person spread clothes before Jesus and the colt once.  
**Branches:** But others kept bringing small branches they cut from trees to spread before Jesus.
  2. And the crowd going before Him and those following continued crying: Hosanna, Son of David: Has been blessed The One coming in The Name of The Lord; Hosanna in the highest. (*Verse 9*)  
**Please save:** In English they are literally saying: Thou must save us, please! Over the years this plea to their God for salvation, by faith, became another word of praise. They are quoting *Psalm 118(:26)*. They expected Jesus to save them from Rome and give them land to possess to the full extent of God's Word to Abraham, which they had under David.
  3. When He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred up, saying: Who is this? And the crowd was saying: This is the prophet Jesus of Nazareth (guarded one) of Galilee (circuit). (*Verses 10-11*)  
**Prophet:** Most were referring to a prophet similar to the Scripture writing prophets. But some may have meant The Prophet Moses wrote about with the warning that those disobeying Him would be called to account by Yahweh (*Deuteronomy 18:15-19*). Let's examine the *Psalm* they quoted:

- C. The Covenant God's people implore Him to save them, blessing His Name, as they demand (the sacrifice of the) feast to be bound and exalt Yahweh for His: Light, Goodness and LOVE. (*Psalm 118:25-29*)
- (We) beseech now Yahweh, 'save (us) please'; (we) beseech now Yahweh, 'make (us) successful, please'. (*Verse 7*)  
**Ho-she-ah'-na:** The Hebrew for 'Thou must save, please' is *Ho-she-ah'-na*, Hosanna in English.  
**Make successful:** They are asking for prosperity in body, soul and spirit.
  - Is being blessed The One coming in The Name of Yahweh; we bless you from the house of Yahweh. (*Verse 26*)  
**Blessed:** The Hebrew here is '*ba-ruk' ha-shem' Yahweh*' – being blessed the Name of Yahweh.
  - God (is) Yahweh, and He has caused us to have Light; you all must bind (the sacrifice of the) feast with cords as far as the horns of the altar. (*Verse 27*)  
**Caused Light:** God's people recognize He is BOTH Light AND the source of Light.  
**Bind feast:** This primarily refers to the Passover Lamb to be sacrificed on Friday at the Temple. It goes back to the lamb Yahweh supplied in place of Isaac (*Genesis 22:13-14*). And, Jesus will be The Lamb of God (*John 1:29*).
  - My God Thou are; I will give thanks to Thee; my God I will extol Thee; you all must give thanks to Yahweh because He (is) Good, because forever (is) His steadfast LOVE. (*Verses 28-29*)  
**Personal:** The songwriter declares a personal relationship with Yahweh based on faith in Who He IS, and all the wonders He does.  
**Thanksgiving:** They declare thanksgiving to Yahweh, their God because He (is) Good.  
**Steadfast LOVE:** Last, but not least, they are grateful for His strong, Life-giving, Life-changing LOVE.

We thank God for His: *Light, Goodness and LOVE*

## II. Jesus cleanses the Temple and heals those with infirmities; and, the chief priests are indignant. (*Matthew 21:12-17*)

- A. Jesus drives merchants out of the Temple courts, and then heals the blind and lame. (*Verses 12-14*)
- And Jesus went into the Temple and He cast out all those selling and buying in the Temple; and, the tables of the moneychangers He overthrew, and the seats of those selling doves. (*Verse 12*)  
**Cleanse Temple:** The place to worship The True God is THE non-profit! Nehemiah forcibly stopped merchants desecrating the Sabbath in Jerusalem (*Nehemiah 13:15-22*). Since doves were the offering of the poor (*Leviticus 5:7; 12:8; 14:21-22*), those selling doves to them for profit offended God.
  - He is saying to them: It has been written: My house, a house of prayer will be called; but, you all are making it a cave of robbers. (*Verse 13*)  
**Isaiah:** The full text is: My house will be called a house of prayer for all people (*Isaiah 56:7b*). Yahweh called the Jews to set a good example of prayer and worship for all people, every ethnic group.  
**Jeremiah:** Yahweh told Jeremiah to stand at His House and proclaim repentance, building up to: A den of burglars hath this house, on which My Name is called, been in your eyes (*Jeremiah 7:11, YLT*).
  - And they came to Him, blind and lame, in the Temple, and He healed them. (*Verse 14*)  
**Infirmities:** Many came to Jesus. He always had compassion on the poor and needy. He cleaned the courts of those exploiting the poor. And He healed those needing healing.

### *Jesus came to cleanse and to heal the needy*

- B. But the chief priests and scribes are indignant when the children are crying out, 'Save us, please!'; but, Jesus questions their knowledge of a *Psalm*. (*Verses 15-17*)
- But the chief priests and the scribes having seen the wonderful things He did, and the children crying out in the Temple: Hosanna to the Son of David, were indignant. (*Verse 15*)  
**Indignant:** The religious leaders were indignant because only God does wonders: especially creation and the exodus. The wonderful things Jesus did declared Him to be God. They also tried to complicate God's ways beyond loving Him and people, and children joyously praising God contradicted them. Jesus does not fulfill their expectations of the Messiah.
  - They said to Him: Are You hearing what these are saying? Jesus is saying: Yes, have you all never read: Out of the mouths of babes and those nursing, Thou have supplied praise? (*Verse 16*)  
**Psalm 8:** Jesus refers to *Psalm 8* which glorifies Yahweh in His awesome creation and how the praise of children silences God's enemies. The children had a less than full understanding of Jesus, yet they loved Him and praised Him with all they had. God works to change the unclean hearts of people through dependent children.

### *Jesus came to cleanse and to heal the needy*

- Having left them, He went outside the city into Bethany and lodged there. (*Verse 17*)  
**Outside City:** He went to the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha (*John 11:1*).  
**Name:** Bethany means 'house of affliction' a fitting name for the place Jesus slept every night until He was arrested to be The Passover Lamb offered for the sins of all people on Friday.

**Conclusion:** Although Jesus entered Jerusalem as a humble king (about to offer His life for His subjects), His followers expected He would conquer Rome as David conquered the nations of his day, and they would soon have the blessings given to Abraham about eternal possession and control of the land. After He drove the merchants out of the Temple courts, saying the Temple is for prayer (and worship), He tells indignant religious leaders to become like the children Yahweh ordained to praise Him.

### *Jesus came to cleanse and to heal the needy*

We are needy. We may not have full understanding of Jesus, but we have enough to know we need Him!