



April 10, 2016 **Chapter 6**
The Final Week
Jerusalem

Goals

- Develop a working knowledge of the last weeks of Jesus' life before the Crucifixion.
- Gain a renewed understanding of some factors that led to Jesus' crucifixion.
- Identify participants in the various events that took place during Jesus' last week before the Crucifixion.
- Understand why Jesus did some of the things he did during his last week in Jerusalem.
- Suggest answers for the people of Jesus' time and our own time to the question, "What kind of King is this?"

Biblical Foundation *(Mark 11:7-10)*

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Conversation Questions

- What do the structures in the video say about building practices in the time of Jesus and before?
- What do the massive size and workmanship of the stones suggest?
- How did Palm Sunday set the stage for all that followed during Jesus' final week?
- Do you think the arrest, trial, and crucifixion could have taken place without Palm Sunday?
- What did the Palm Sunday events communicate to both the Jewish religious establishment and the Roman authorities?
- Recall that the Romans were an occupying force that taxed the local population heavily. How do you think the Romans and the local religious authorities would have responded to large crowds greeting a stranger as a king, with shouts of "Save us, save us!"?
- Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites, like "whitewashed tombs," examples of what some people have called "bad religion." What examples of bad religion do you see in our world? Do you think there is more bad religion now than there was in Jesus' time? Why or why not?
- Hamilton writes that the cross is a mirror held up to our souls. What do you think he means? When you look in that mirror, what do you see?
- How is the Resurrection the climax of the human story, especially in relationship to and with God? How is the Resurrection your defining story?

JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JESUS

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