

## Not Of This World

Mark 11:11

Charlie Brackett

Verse 11 seems anti-climatic after the excitement of verses 7 through 10. Jesus had ridden into the city on a new colt with multitudes lining the way. They threw their garments and palm fronds in His path celebrating Jesus as the King they had long awaited. Some went before, others followed, and all cried, "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

"Hosanna" in Hebrew means "save, we pray." It was used more as an utterance of praise than of prayer, but it carried the idea of a plea for help. The Jews longed for a king's help, their own king. They craved national standing like their fathers had enjoyed when David was king.

But the excitement of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on this occasion must have ended in disappointment for many of them who cheered so exuberantly. Verse 11 says Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. Then when He had looked around, since the hour was late, He turned and walked back out of the city to Bethany by the same road on which He entered. Matthew's account of this in chapter 21 adds that when Jesus entered the city, all the city was stirred. It must have been! He came with a multitude treating Him like royalty. "Who is it?" many asked. The multitude answered, "This is the Prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

But then Jesus just looked around and left. I wonder how many there looked in amazement and said, "Wait a moment! Aren't we going to crown this Jesus king? Didn't He ride in here to become our king, to sit upon David's throne?" What disappointment they must have felt! What an anti-climax to have Him simply look around and then return to Bethany!

They were disappointed only because they didn't understand the nature of His kingdom and of His crowning. They visualized Jesus on a physical throne with a physical crown just as many good people still expect today. They were wrong. Jesus Himself said in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world." Jesus established a spiritual kingdom referred to in many New Testament scriptures as the church. He established it when He arose from the dead as Peter proclaimed in Acts 2:29-32. Listen. "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus Christ God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."

Can there be any doubt that Jesus now sits on David's throne?