

Jesus enters Jerusalem

(story told in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19)

The highlights of my childhood were going to the seaside and there you could have the chance of riding on a donkey. They may be small but they are easy to ride.

The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a story we can hear and quickly forget. The exciting thing seems to be the ride of Jesus on a donkey and a large group of people who behaved like a football crowd.

When I was about 11, my dad would finish work on a Saturday morning and I would walk down to where he worked and then we would get on the bus to Manchester. The excitement grew when we sat down in the stadium and the battle began. What we wanted to happen above all else would be the end of the match when the captain would lead the team out, having won.

When I was reading today's Bible story I saw something I had never really noticed. This large group of men were not simply walking into town. These were godly men who were coming from a distance and were disciples of Jesus. They were not simply interested in Jesus, they had not only heard about him, they had seen the impact of his concern for people and the miracles that had saved people's lives. No wonder they shouted "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory to God".

Of course, there were some Pharisees who didn't go along with the joy and the hope that Jesus gave to people.

We live in very difficult times and no doubt you may be very concerned about our future. There seems to be little peace in heaven and glory from God. We must remind ourselves that

"God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the world will be filled
with the Glory of God
as the waters cover the sea."