To the Jew First and Also to the Greek

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. John’s gospel puts Jesus’ triumphal entry into the context of His wider reception by the world., much as Paul says that the gospel is the power of God first to the Jew and then to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

**1. Observing the text**—The apostle John

A. Provides few details about *Palm Sunday*

B. Uses the Pharisees as a segue *to the world*

C. Focuses on the world’s *response to Christ*

**2. Truths in the text**

A. Jesus died to bear *much fruit* in the world

B. The world and its ruler *will be judged*

C. Jesus came to *save the world*

**3. Applying the text**—Our attitude toward the world

A. Our world is not *just us*

B. Our world is *dark and hostile*

C. Our world is our *mission field*

Not to be *hated and feared*

But to be *loved for Jesus’ sake*

And for us to *give our lives for it*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. During His time on earth, Jesus confined His ministry almost entirely to the nation of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24). In his travels, the apostle Paul always went to the local synagogue first before he turned to the gentiles. On Palm Sunday, Jesus offered Himself to Israel as their King, but He was always looking ahead to the salvation of the gentiles (John 10:16; Luke 13:28-30). How does this pattern fit with Old Testament prophecy (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:5-7)?

3. How did Paul see his ministry to Jews and non-Jews (Romans 1:13-17)?

How does the corruption of Paul’s world compare with the corruption of our world (Romans 1:18-32)?

Why did that not discourage Paul (Romans 1:16)? Why should we not be discouraged?

Note: “World” occurs 11 times in Matthew; 4 times in Mark; 5 times in Luke; and 79 times in John—7 times in John 12.