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How did Jesus Prepare?

John 17:4: (NKJV) *"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."*

What would you do? What would you do if you knew you only had one week to live? How would you act? Where would you go? Who would you see? What would you say? Obviously this is a difficult question - one that most of us are never faced with. Well, two thousand years ago Jesus was in such a position, for he knew when his time would come and he knew what he had to do. Come with us as we follow some of his experiences in those last days. Let us see what we can learn about facing death from the greatest life ever lived.

Our only question:

How did Jesus prepare himself for his final offering?

Let's begin by looking at the event which led to his being hunted down by the Pharisees - the Resurrection of Lazarus. The account is found in John 11:1-44 and selections from John 11:1-15:



Observations:

- Jesus knew that this experience would bring glory to his Father.
- Jesus knew that this experience would bring him to glory. (*"...that the Son of God might be glorified..."*)
- Jesus knew this would be the most astounding miracle yet.
- Jesus knew the raising (not healing) of Lazarus was necessary to seal his identity. John 11:17-25
- Jesus arrives as the mourning of Lazarus' death is widespread.
- Jesus' arrival is seemingly too late.
- Jesus proclaims the fulfillment of his ministry.

John 11:34-44: Jesus prays out loud, in public. He wanted to make sure that all of the people witnessing this amazing miracle knew that the power was coming from God and not himself.

We look at the different kinds of reactions to this most breathtaking of all miracles:

John 11:45-53: The reaction of the Pharisees to this great miracle was, "This is terrible!" Their position of religious leadership was being threatened. They were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus. "One man would die for the nation," was true in the very best sense, but they wanted to be the instigators in his death.

The raising of Lazarus would be the catalyst after which they planned to put him to death. Jesus knew that the restoring of a life would mean the forfeiting of his own; yet he set this up for that very purpose, for the forfeiting of his life would come to mean the restoring of the life of every man. 1 Timothy 2:3-6: John 7:25-30

How did Jesus prepare himself?

He continued to work miracles, to his own detriment.

Let's take a look at his last week: (Nisan 9) John 12:2-11: Mark 14:4 John 2:4 Matthew 26:12-13

The word is spreading about the miracle, and people wanted to see Lazarus as proof. Jesus accepts the costly gift of Mary, different from his usual demeanor. He saw this as a precursor to his burial and explained as such.

How did Jesus prepare himself?

He allowed himself to be the subject of a significant gift.



(Nisan 10): A compilation of [Mark 11:1-11](#), [Matthew 21:1-11](#), [Luke 19:28-44](#) and [John 12:12-19](#):

For the sake of detail and simplicity we will combine the four accounts, with [Mark 11:1-11](#) as a base. Here is the complete reading that the audio program discusses individually:

[Mark 11:1-3](#): (NRSV) ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" [Matthew 21:4-5](#): ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey. [John 12:16](#): **His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.** [Mark 11:4](#): They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, [Luke 19:33](#): **its owners asked them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"** [Mark 11:6](#): They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. [Matthew 21:6-7](#): ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. [Luke 19:37](#): **As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives,** [Mark 11:8](#): Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields...(among them was) the whole multitude of the disciples, [John 12:17-18](#): ¹⁷**the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead** ¹⁸**It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.** [Luke 19:37](#): **...(they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,** ³⁸**saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"** [Matthew 21:9](#): **Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!** [Mark 11:9-10](#): ⁹**Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!** ¹⁰**Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"** [Luke 19:39-44](#): ³⁹**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."** ⁴⁰**He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."** ⁴¹**As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it,** ⁴²**saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.** ⁴³**Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side.** ⁴⁴**They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."** [Matthew 21:10-11](#): ¹⁰**When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"** ¹¹**The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."** [John 12:19](#): **The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"**

[Mark 11:1-3](#) [Matthew 21:4-5](#) [John 12:16](#)

The prophecy contained in the above text: [Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

Observations:

[Verse 9](#) - This is an unmistakably clear prophecy of the main event of Palm Sunday, riding lowly on a colt.

[Verse 10](#) - This is a microcosm of the consequence of the Messiah's rejection mixed with the broad spectacle of his all encompassing, worldwide dominion.

[Verse 11](#) - A continuation of the dominion - the resurrection from death.

[Verse 12](#) - An admonition to come back to Christ, whom they were to reject; and the consequences of that rejection - the "double," the second portion/repetition - disfavor to the nation from AD 33 - 1878. (Berlin Congress re-opening Israel to Jews)



Verse 12 gives a hint of what would happen. Jesus soon casts off Israel from favor. They had been favored by God exclusively for a long time. When it says, "I will restore double to you," the word actually means a "foldover," like a mirror image. If you have been favored for 1845 years (explanation beyond this program) and then you unfold it to a period of disfavor for a period of 1845 years; and you see Jesus proclaiming that disfavor in AD33, then the year 1878 should return favor to Israel. How is that possible? It just so happens that the first Jewish settlement in the land of Israel (Petah Tikvah, "Door of Hope") was allowed to take place in 1878!

This prophecy is not just about Jesus' ride to Jerusalem, but it is about what that ride would eventually lead to.

Mark 11:4 Luke 19:33 Mark 11:6 Matthew 21:6-7 Luke 19:37 Mark 11:8 John 12:17-18

Israel used this method to welcome in a King. Think about Jesus being surrounded by (according to one commentator) 300,000 individuals! What an amazing event this was! This would have drawn the attention of everyone.

There is a significant connection to the original Passover when Israel was freed from Egypt, specifically the lamb taken into the house: Exodus 12:3 Zechariah 9:9 John 1:29 1 Corinthians 5:7 The lamb was taken into the house on the tenth day. What day did Jesus ride in on the colt? The tenth! Exodus 12:5-6 1 Peter 1:19: We see that Palm Sunday is the miraculous fulfillment of an event that occurred thousands of years before. Jesus rode into the hearts of the people on the same day the lamb was brought in.

Luke 19:37 Matthew 21:9 Mark 11:9-10

Jesus knew that people looking at him with admiration had to happen. He knew the prophecies, but there would be no way to stage or fake their fulfillment. It was only arranged by the grace of God.

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He accepted the kingly praise due him according to prophecy.**

Here is another Passover Connection - The blood of the Lamb and the saving power of the Redeemer: Exodus 12:7, 13: The blood of the lamb was used as the signal to pass over the house. 1 Peter 1:19 Leviticus 17:11: The firstborn was subject to death and the whole nation was subject to slavery. The only salvation available was the blood of the lamb. This blood was to cover them completely, as symbolized in the striking of it on the two door posts and the lintel. Hebrews 10:19-22 Hebrews 10:1-6: All of the sacrifices Israel was offering to God couldn't actually take away sin. It bought them atonement until the next time they had to offer sacrifices. Jesus put an end to that because he was the sacrifice to take away sin.

The Passover Lamb vs. Jesus as the Lamb



Lamb taken in on Nisan 10	Jesus received as a King on Nisan 10
Lamb slain on Nisan 14	Jesus slain on Nisan 14
Lamb slain late afternoon "at even"	Jesus died at 3pm "the 9 th hour"

What about the crowd shouting "Hosanna"? What does that mean? Psalms 118:25: When we look at the use of the Hebrew words, in every instance the thought is not only "oh save" but "Save Us Now!"

The crowd proclaimed that Jesus was the son of David, a prophet and healer and that they were immediately looking for deliverance. This meant that they believed Jesus could deliver them, and not the Pharisees. That miracle of Lazarus resonated with the people, and they saw their salvation in Jesus.

Luke 19:39-44:

Jesus' words and actions acknowledge that the plan was inexorably moving forward and could not be stopped. Prophecy said this must happen!



**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He continued to prophesy as to the future of God's chosen people.**

Matthew 21:10-11

Hordes of people are coming into the city, so there is turmoil and excitement at the prospect of "Hosanna!"

John 12:19

The Pharisees seem to be throwing up their hands at this. This was probably the truest utterance that the Pharisees could give, for the time would come when Jesus would truly have all of the world follow after him. We can easily get lost in our own way of thinking and miss the wondrous things around us.

Event: The Cleansing of the Temple Matthew 21:12-27:

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He set right the wrongs allowed by the Pharisees.**

Event: The Withering of the Fig Tree Matthew 21:18-22: Jesus is showing the depth of the fall that Israel has taken. They were fruitless and about to be cast off - their cries of Hosanna were answered but not to be understood for thousands of years. Jesus did what he came to do, although the results would not be fulfilled until much later. The withering fig tree represented the nation of Israel. In Scripture, mountains symbolically represent governments. Perhaps he was telling them that their government, Rome, would be removed. Miracles got peoples' attention. It wasn't the miracle as much as the value of the lesson that came with it. He continually drew their minds towards higher things and an understanding that there was much more to come.

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He shows them their future combining a miracle and a prophecy.**

Matthew 21: 23-27: In their own reasoning, they see their position as flawed, but they don't change their ways. Even to the very end, Jesus was trying to get out of them an understanding and appreciation of God's love.

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He continued to thwart and frustrate the foolish questions of the Pharisees.**

Matthew 23:1-7: They are in a position of teaching, do what they say that is good, but don't do as they do! Do we in our approach to our own Christianity follow after what looks good or sounds eloquent or has the biggest building or the most money? Matthew 23:37-39:

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He spelled out the hypocrisy and fate of the Jewish leadership
and the nation under that leadership.**

Matthew 24:1-4:

**How did Jesus prepare himself?
He prepared himself by preparing his followers to have whatever they needed to stand without him. He spelled out (though cryptically through prophecy) his return and the events that would surround it.**

All of this can be summed up in two scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:13 John 4:31-34

***So how did Jesus prepare?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***