



## 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.

Selections from John 11:1-15: (KJV) *"<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha..... <sup>4</sup>When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again..... Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. <sup>12</sup>Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. <sup>13</sup>Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."*

#### 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: (KJV) *<sup>17</sup>Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already...<sup>19</sup>And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. <sup>21</sup>Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. <sup>22</sup>But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. <sup>23</sup>Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. <sup>24</sup>Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. <sup>25</sup>Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

- 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: (KJV)** <sup>34</sup>And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! <sup>37</sup>And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? <sup>38</sup>Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord,... he hath been dead four days. <sup>40</sup>Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? <sup>41</sup>Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. <sup>42</sup>And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. <sup>43</sup>And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. <sup>44</sup>And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

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: (NRSV)** <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. <sup>46</sup>But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. <sup>47</sup>So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. <sup>48</sup>If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place<sup>e</sup> and our nation." <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup>You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." <sup>51</sup>He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they planned to put him to death."

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: (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,"

**John 7:25-30: (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup>Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? <sup>26</sup>But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? <sup>27</sup>However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. <sup>29</sup>But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me." <sup>30</sup>Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

**How did Jesus prepare himself?**  
**He continued to work miracles, to his own detriment.**



Jesus, knowing that his time was at hand, begins preparing for his death.

**Let's take a look at his last week: (Nisan 9)**

John 12:2-11: (NKJV) <sup>2</sup>There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup>Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Mark 14:4 <sup>4</sup>But there were some who were indignant among themselves John 2:4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup>For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Matthew 26:12-13 <sup>12</sup>For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. <sup>13</sup>Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." <sup>9</sup>Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus."

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) <sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and 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. <sup>3</sup>If 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: <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>Tell 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: <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they 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: <sup>17</sup>**the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead.** <sup>18</sup>**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, <sup>38</sup>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: <sup>9</sup>Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!" Luke 19:39-44: <sup>39</sup>**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."** <sup>40</sup>**He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."** <sup>41</sup>**As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it,** <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>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: <sup>10</sup>**When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"** <sup>11</sup>**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!"**

Let's begin looking at this combination of passages in more detail:





Mark 11:1-3: (NRSV) *"<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and 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. <sup>3</sup>If 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: *<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>Tell 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.**"*

### The prophecy contained in the above text:

Zechariah 9:9-12: (NKJV) *"<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.' <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you."*

### 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: *"<sup>4</sup>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: *"<sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Matthew 21:6-7: **<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. Luke 19:37: <sup>37</sup>As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, Mark 11:8: <sup>8</sup>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: <sup>17</sup>the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead <sup>18</sup>It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him."***

(Source: Bible Commentary from Matthew Poole) Their laying the garments upon the (donkey), and throwing them in the way, was a custom they used towards princes, as appears not only by many records out of profane authors, but from 2 Kings 9:13, where the like was done to Jehu, upon his being anointed king over Israel. For the acclamations, they were also such as were usual to princes.

Israel used this method to welcome in a King.

(Source: John Trapp's Commentary on the Holy Bible) The crowd was unified behind Jesus - the son of David, Verse 8. [And a very great multitude] Bondinius saith he was met at this time by 300,000 Jews, some whereof went before Christ, some followed after, according to the solemn rites and reverence used to be given to earthly kings in their most pompous triumphs. This was the Lord's own work.

Think about Jesus being surrounded by (according to this 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: "Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household."

Zechariah 9:9: (NKJV) "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

John 1:29: "On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!"

1 Corinthians 5:7: (ASV) "Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, even as ye are unleavened. For our passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ:"

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:** *"<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight."*

**1 Peter 1:19:** *"but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, [even the blood] of Christ:"*

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:** *"...(they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>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:** *"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"*

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:** *"They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."*

The blood of the lamb was used as the signal to pass over the house.

**1 Peter 1:19:** *"but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, [even the blood] of Christ:"*

**Leviticus 17:11:** *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."*

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:** (NRSV) *<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*

**Hebrews 10:1-6:** (NRSV) *"<sup>1</sup>Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would*



*they not have ceased being offered, since the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? <sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure."*

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<sup>th</sup> hour"

### What about the crowd shouting "Hosanna"? What does that mean?

**Hosanna:** Strong's #5614 hosanna (ho-san-nah'); of Hebrew origin [3467 and 4994]; oh save!; an exclamation of adoration

Hebrew words for "Hosanna" - Old Testament uses:

Psalms 118:25: "Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity."

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:** *"<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' <sup>40</sup>He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.' <sup>41</sup>As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>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.'"*

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:** *"<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'"*

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

**John 12:19:** *"The Pharisees then said to one another, 'You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!'"*

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:** (NKJV) *"<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup>And He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"<sup>14</sup>Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. <sup>15</sup>But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant <sup>16</sup>and said to Him, 'Do You hear what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise?'" <sup>17</sup>Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there."*

**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:** *"<sup>18</sup>Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. <sup>19</sup>And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, 'Let no fruit grow on you ever again.' Immediately the fig tree withered away. <sup>20</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, 'How did the fig tree wither away so soon?' <sup>21</sup>So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be*



*removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. <sup>22</sup>And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.'"*

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: *"<sup>23</sup>Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" <sup>24</sup>But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

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: (ASV) *"<sup>1</sup>Then spake Jesus to the multitudes and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat: <sup>3</sup>all things therefore whatsoever they bid you, these do and observe: but do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not. <sup>4</sup>Yea, they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup>But all their works they do to be seen of men: for they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, <sup>6</sup>and love the chief place at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called of men, Rabbi."*

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: (ASV) *"<sup>37</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! <sup>38</sup>Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."*



**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: (NKJV) *"<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." <sup>3</sup>Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."*

**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.**



## How did Jesus Prepare Himself?

- He continued to work miracles, to his own detriment
- He allowed himself to be the subject of a significant gift
- He accepted the kingly praise due him according to prophecy
- He continued to prophesy as to the future of God's chosen people
- He set right the wrongs allowed by the Pharisees
- He shows them their future, combining a miracle and a prophecy
- He continued to thwart and frustrate the foolish questions of the Pharisees
- He spelled out the hypocrisy and fate of the Jewish leadership and the nation under that leadership
- 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: (NKJV) *"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*

John 4:31-34: (NKJV) *"<sup>31</sup>In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.'<sup>32</sup>But He said to them, 'I have food to eat of which you do not know.'<sup>33</sup>Therefore the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?'<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'"*

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



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For Your Continued Study...

**Hebrew words for "Hosanna" - all Old Testament uses:**

2 Kings 19:19: (KJV) *"Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only."*

Isaiah 47:13: *"Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee."*