

HAILED AS A KING ON PALM SUNDAY

Jesus was not simply tired that Palm Sunday when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. No, this was a symbolic act. The people around him knew of the prophecy in the Old Testament: “Behold, you King comes to you, He is just and has salvation; lowly, and riding . . . on a colt . . .” and so the people hailed Him as their King, waving branches, putting their coats on the path before him and proclaiming “Hosanna! Blessed is He that Comes in the Name of the Lord.”

For more than three years Christ had gone from town to town teaching the multitudes that the kingdom of God was at hand, healing those who were sick in body and soul, even raising the dead unto life. In fact, the recent raising of Lazarus from the grave brought out the crowd when they learned Our Lord was coming to the City of Jerusalem.

Excitement gipped the crowd. Long had they waited to be free from Roman dominance. And so the people hailed Jesus as their King. But they were mistaken as to the king of King He would be. They wanted Him to be a political King, restoring the throne of David and Solomon of centuries before. But Jesus wanted no part of that kind of kingdom. He is a spiritual King, reigning over people, not over lands. He is a King of Love, not of power; He doesn't have an army of guns and bombs; His is an army of people who freely follow Him, love Him and serve Him.

Jesus had come to Jerusalem, not to reign over the country, but to die for all mankind: He came not to sit on a throne of gold, but hang on the Cross of pain. And so it is no wonder that with the passing of a few days the shouts of exaltation would turn into taunts of scorn.