

- 1 **The Passover was a very special feast day in Israel's religious calendar and was inextricably linked to what took place in the Exodus (Exodus 12:13).** It became entrenched in Israel's tradition and has always marked the day of redemption from Egypt. Passover began with the slaying of the Passover lamb, which had to be a lamb without blemish. Friday of Passover would have begun on Thursday at sunset. According to Josephus, it was customary in his day to slay the lamb at about 3PM. This was the time of day that Christ, the Christian's Passover lamb, died (1 Cor. 5:7; Luke 23:44-46).

 Why was it significant for Christ to enter Jerusalem at Passover time?

- 2 **What do the words of the multitude (12:12,13) tell you about their hopes and plans for Jesus?** (See John 6:15)

 a. Why do you think Jesus allowed this display of public enthusiasm, when earlier He had discouraged it? (See John 6:14; 7:1-8)

 b. What gets in the way of you praising Jesus exuberantly? How would reflecting on Jesus' identity as your Savior ("Hosanna!"), and your powerful-yet-humble king ("Seated on a donkey's colt"), help provoke your praise?

- 3 **Read Psalm 118:1-29.** This "Psalm of ascent" (along with Psalms 113-117) was frequently sung by pilgrims as they went up to Jerusalem for special feasts and by the temple choir during Israel's religious Festivals.

 a. Describe the tone and mood felt in this psalm of ascent. How does this compare with the scene when Christ entered Jerusalem?

 b. How could you use Psalm 118 as a way of personally reminding yourself of the goodness of Jesus?

