

# **Triumph or Tragedy?**

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I. Introduction. Text: John 12:12-26.

II. The triumphal entry. It was not actually a welcome by the city.

B. Pilgrims, not residents of the city, came to greet Jesus.

C. Nobody understood the nature of this event at first.

D. It was not even a spontaneous organization—it was a carefully planned demonstration organized by Jesus Himself in accordance with the Scripture. (Daniel 9)

E. It was not triumphal—Jesus wept over the city because the people did not recognize the time of the Messiah’s coming. (Luke 19:41)

F. The Lord came riding a symbol of peace.

G. When the Gentiles came, Jesus recognized that the hour had come for Him to be glorified.

III. We would have known nothing of Jesus had He not gone to the cross.

A. The only true way to glory is to die.

B. Jesus’ servants must follow Him in His steps.

C. The true gospel demands that the believer die.

D. There is a self-centered life that has to die so that a loving, gracious and peaceful life can take its place.

E. Bearing one’s cross means...

1. A once for all decision that recognizes one’s life is not his own.

2. A daily following up on this decision doing what is right and ceasing from wrong.

3. If one belongs to Jesus, every day will have its cross. If we choose to die, we will live.

## **Application questions:**

1. Why was the triumphal entry not so triumphal?

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2. How does Jesus death on the cross picture the daily life the believer is to have? Explain.

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3. Who is a model for you in your own life of someone who dies to his or her own desires on a regular basis? What does he or she do that stands out to you?

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