

HOW WE OUGHT TO COME TO CHURCH

TEXT: (Mark 11:1-10, NIV)

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

INTRODUCTION

1. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:1-5, NIV)

I. APPROACHING GOD IN PRAISE

1. "Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'" (Mark 11:9-10, NIV).
2. "Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'" (Luke 19:39, NIV).
3. "'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out'" (Luke 19:40, NIV).

A. Praise Him with Your Voice

1. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you" (Psalm 63:3, NIV).
3. "I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O LORD, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds" (Psalm 26:6-7, NIV).
4. "Then a voice came from the throne, saying: 'Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!'
Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: 'Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns'" (Revelation 19:5-6, NIV).
5. "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14, NIV).

B. Worship the LORD with Gladness

1. "Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" (Psalm 100:2, NIV).

2. "I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:2, NIV).
3. "I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me" (Psalm 13:6, NIV).
4. "Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise" (Psalm 47:6-7, NIV).
5. "Worship the LORD with gladness" (Psalm 100:2, NIV).

II. PRAISE HIM FOR WHO HE IS

A. The LORD Is God

1. "Know that the LORD is God" (Psalm 100:3, NIV).
2. "The LORD is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1, NIV).
3. "The Rock my Savior" (Psalm 89:26, NIV).
4. "I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Psalm 91:2, NIV).
5. "Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you'" (Acts 17:22-23, NIV).

B. The LORD Is the Sovereign Creator

1. "It is he who made us" (Psalm 100:3, NIV)
2. "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible" (Hebrews 11:3, NIV).
3. "The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" (Isaiah 66:1, NIV).
4. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One" (Isaiah 40:25, NIV).
5. "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in" (Isaiah 40:22, NIV).
6. "The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you" (I Kings 8:27, NIV).
7. "Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:24).
8. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (Psalm 139:7-10, NIV).
9. "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:2, NIV).
10. "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15, NIV).
11. "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8, NIV).
12. "God is love" (I John 4:8, NIV).

C. We Are the People of God

1. "We are his people, the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3, NIV).

III. HOW TO COME BEFORE GOD

1. "Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'" (Mark 11:8-10, NIV).
2. "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, NIV).
3. "For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary" (Psalm 96:4-6, NIV).

A. Humble Yourself before Him

1. "They are blessed who realize their spiritual poverty, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them" (Matthew 5:3, NCV).
2. "Be completely humble and gentle" (Ephesians 4:2, NIV)
3. "Humble yourself in the Lord's presence, and he will honor you" (James 4:10, NCV).

B. Be Thankful

1. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving" (Psalm 100:4, NIV).
2. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6, NIV).

C. Praise His Name

1. "Praise the LORD.
Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD" (Psalm 150:1-6, NIV).
3. "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name" (Psalm 103:1, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4, NIV).
2. "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song" (Psalm 95:2, NIV).