

God's word was being fulfilled. Have class repeat some of the words the great company sang:

"Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Tell why the people were so glad. Earthly kings are not always good and kind. But Jesus was. They knew how he loved every body and tried to help every body. And he could do any thing he wanted to. It was easy for him to make blind people see, and even to bring dead people to life. No doubt Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead, was one of the glad company now singing praises to Jesus!

Now the procession had reached the top of Mount Olivet. The holy city lay spread out below. How beautiful it looked! And all eyes turned to the King so soon to be crowned there! Ah! they did not know that his crown was to be one of thorns.

Jesus stopped and looked down upon the city, and he wept, because he knew that they were going to crucify their King—the Saviour who came to save them!

But here comes a crowd from the city to meet Jesus. They have cut branches from the palm-trees to throw down before him. Some take off their garments and spread them in his path. So they showed honor to kings in those days. Even the little children sang praise to King Jesus, and none sang more joyfully than they. They loved Jesus because he loved them.

Tell what Jesus did in the temple, and how angry the Jews were. They did not want Jesus to be King, because they loved sin and not goodness.



Make picture of palm branch, or, better, show one. Tell that it means victory. Can we bring palms in honor of Jesus? Teach that every time we overcome some sin we gain a victory for Jesus, and so honor him. Talk about selfishness, naughty temper, self-will, disobedience, and

teach that letting Jesus cure these sins is the best way we can honor him.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

"Who are these men?" asks old David, that devout Hebrew, looking out of his latticed window. "They are unloosing my ass tied there, and they will take her foal, my beautiful Issachar, the colt."

Old David hurries down to the door. "Ho! ho! what are you doing? Taking my ass and her foal, the beautiful Issachar!"

"The Lord hath need of him," is the quiet and only reply of the strangers.

From that there is no appeal. Off go the two strangers accompanied by the ass and Issachar.

"The Lord hath need of them?" repeats old David in a dazed kind of way. "It is the Great Prophet who needs them. I will follow also."

The strangers are younger men than old David, and soon leave him behind. When he runs and catches up with them he is in the midst of an excited crowd gather-

ered and jostling about one man who seems to be their leader.

"Yes, it is the Great Prophet," says old David. "It was my Lord that had need of the ass and my beautiful Issachar."

He eagerly presses forward that he may see every thing.

"Why," he murmurs, "they have set the Great Prophet on my Issachar. Never has man ridden the foal. O, what an honor! How like a king rides my Lord, the Great Prophet!"

The crowd thickens. Some run ahead carpeting the ground with their very clothes; others wave branches of palm and then throw them down, while all cry in louder, more eager, more jubilant strains, "Hosanna!"

Old David is swept away by this tide of applause and adoration. He too throws down his garment upon the ground. He cuts and waves a branch of palm, and then lays it down before the proudly stepping Issachar. How composed his gait, how stately, as if day after day and year after year Issachar had been carrying a King on to his throne at Jerusalem. And there is the holy city, walls and domes and the grand temple-heights bursting into view. How the people shout now, while the branches wave like a vast palm-grove in a great wind over Olivet! On and on, down into the valley, up to the city-gate, winds the triumphal retinue.

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates!" old David shouts, while the hosannas rise and fall, subsiding, then swelling again, rolling away like waves of a great sea of sound suddenly bursting through the city gates. All the city is aroused. The streets are crowded. People forsake their homes, leave their business, abandon their pleasures. Steadily on, amid the hosannas, through the dense crowds in the street, with stately step moves Issachar, bearing Israel's King. Can you not see old David excitedly following? The temple-courts are reached. Jesus goes into them. Waiting now for the return of his Lord, soon what a rabble David sees rushing out of the temple courts! Money-changers gripping their bags, dove-peddlers clinging to their fluttering goods—a mercenary, desecrating throng—old David sees rushing, flying, tumbling out of the temple and behind them is the King that rode the beautiful Issachar! How stern and full of rebuke is his face as he drives the greedy crowd before him, purifying his Father's house and the courts of prayer!

But see! In the rear, following at a prudent distance, scowling, sneering, can you not see those priests and scribes?

"Hush, begone, young blasphemers!" they cry to the children shouting their hosannas to Jesus.

Old David looks in wonder at the flying crowd of peddlers, the stern, rebuking Saviour, the angry priests, and then catches the sweet, young cry, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!"

The ass and her foal, the beloved Issachar, old David slowly leads away.

"It has been a wonderful day!" he says, "and what does it mean?"

A. D. 30.]

Matt. 21: 33-46.



LESSON XII. THE REJECTED SON.

[Commit to memory verses 42-44.]
33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

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