

# 20Church

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## Who is that Man

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### Overview

in different circumstances, teach, expound on this little story, which is the greatest story ever told.

And it's all about how Jesus came into the city riding on a donkey, not addressed in royal attire. He arrived, listen to this, he arrived unannounced on a donkey, unannounced. Nobody knew he was coming.

But a great crowd suddenly was paying him great attention. Interesting, interesting that there were 12 gates and there are to this day 11 gates that are open on that city. The 12th gate is called the Eastern Gate. That's the gate that the word tells us, the Bible tells us, and when Jesus comes back again, he will go through the Eastern Gate.

Our wonderful friends, the Arab Muslims, don't believe that Jesus is coming back, don't believe that they have to worry about the Eastern Gate. But just in case they've bricked it up solid to stop Jesus from going through that gate.

How many remember this name? Paul Harvey. Do you remember the famous line that he had?

And now the rest of the story. So you've read this story and you've heard about it, surely many, many times over about Jesus arriving in the city of Jerusalem. Matthew tells us, this was the first time that Jesus went to the city. That's Matthew's account. Jesus ministered for three years. And so, you know, it's not necessarily laid out, you know, day by day, hour by hour, and when you're reading the gospels. But you can take it from the four gospel writers. This is an accurate record, but it's not limitless three whole years and you can read the whole history of those three years in a couple, three hours, reading all four gospels. So it's not all there, but they're sufficient there.

And so I want to talk just for a few moments this morning about my assessment. Well, I'm going to tell you the rest of the story. I'm quite intrigued with this story unannounced and becomes the biggest item for a few minutes in that city. So I found this and I was so enamored with this and I thought that this fits this morning. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, leader of the world famous fictitious detective known as Sherlock Holmes. He tells this story on himself and his identity. As he tells it, he's waiting for a taxi outside the railway station in Paris. An accommodating taxi driver drove up, picked up his suitcase and put it in the car. And as Doyle was about to tell the driver where he was going to go before he could get the words out, the driver said, where can I take you, Mr. Doyle? Doyle was astounded. He asked the driver if he recognized him by sight. The driver replies, no, sir,

never seen you before. Doyle's now puzzled. He asked some more. How did you know me?

The

driver respond. Well, sir, this morning's newspaper had a story that you were on vacation in Marseille. This is the taxi stand where people who return from Marseille always wait.

Your skin color tells me you were on vacation. The ink spot on your right index finger suggests you're a writer. Your clothing is English, not French. And adding up all those pieces

of information, I deduced this is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Doyle's blown away. This is truly

amazing. You're a real life counterpart to my fictional character Sherlock Holmes. The

driver turns and says, Oh, there's one more thing. What would that be? You have your name

on your suitcase. I'm so intrigued. I'm so intrigued with stories like that and the mysteries

behind it. I've always been this way. Poor little April at times has had to wait for

me. We've gone to a great staging, maybe a Christmas drama, Easter drama or whatever.

And I've gone in a situation where it wasn't a religious thing. It was a staging. I love

theater. I love drama. And I say to her, you wait here, darling, as the people are leaving

the things all over. I'm captivated by what I saw. I'm captivated by how a person suddenly

appeared and then disappeared. I'm just aptly traumatized because I love to do drama and

have written some of my own and staged them with hundreds of people in my, I love this

kind of stuff. So I've got to find out how did they do that? And so I've gone up on the

stage and gone in behind the stage hands. What are you doing? I'm a writer of dramas.

I'm just checking something out. I tell them whatever I think will work. And I'm looking

around to check it out. I love to know the rest of the story. That's always been me.

So on the triumphal entry on that particular day, I got questions in my head. I've checked

this out. And historians, non-biblical, like secular historians, have estimated that there

was always senses as being taken and whatever. There was ways for them to know historical

records. And so it's commonly agreed by historians that on the day, on that weekend, when the,

when Jesus came through the gates and it was, you see, Passover, it is humbly estimated

that around the city of Jerusalem at that time, there were two and a half million people.

And Jesus arrived on a noun. Twelve gates, He comes through one. And the people start

to go absolutely berserk. There's an excitement. There's an excitement. So let me mention to

you that Passover, which is what the situation was all about, it's a celebration. And the

Jewish people still do that celebration every year at the same time, right around this time

of the year, about mid-April. Because that was the time that they were always getting together

on an annual basis for how many years, thousands of years now, they celebrate how the Lord

God

through the instrumentation of a humble fellow called Moses, they escaped the tyranny and the

bondage of Egypt. It was only by God's mercy and grace that they escaped. And so they

celebrated

every year. It's a big deal. And this is interesting. I found this as I dug around, that if you lived

within 20 miles of the city of Jerusalem, you were expected to show up. You were expected to be

there. It's not like they sent around KGB to check on you, but the expectation was, you know,

your neighbor would say, so what did you think about the Passover yesterday? And you didn't

want

to say I wasn't there because well, what kind of a Jewish person are you? And so the anticipation was, you would be there. But Jewish people came from all over the then-known world. They came by ship, they came by camel train, they came by whatever means they could. And the city swelled to two million and a half people. The cities were alive. And this is what Jesus, this is what Jesus wrote a donkey in. This is the story from biblical account. Now, when they neared to Jerusalem and came to Beth Fage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples and sang to them, go to the village in front of you, and immediately you'll find a donkey tied in a cult with her, untie them and bring them to me. If anybody says anything to you, just say, the Lord needs them, and He will send them at once. This took place to fulfill that which was prophesied by Zechariah. Say to the daughter of Zion, behold, your king is coming to you, humble, mounted on a donkey, on a cult, the full of a beast of burden. Their disciples went and did just as Jesus directed. They brought the donkey and the cult, put them, put on the two animals, their coats, and He sat on one of them. Most of the crowds spread their coats on the road, and others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went before Him and that followed after Him were shouting, Hosanna to the son of David, blessed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest. And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, and this was the question, who's He? Who is this? So it's not like even Doyle, a famous writer, arriving at a train station. There wasn't even anybody there to meet Him except a taxi. This was not a simple thing, although it appeared simple. This man, this unknown man we think arrives on a donkey, not on a big horse. So this is not some Roman governor riding a big steed. This guy's not carrying a sword. Can't be royalty. He's not wearing royal robes. Who are all these people? And what do they, what do these people know that I don't know? It's a mystery, but the crowd grows and grows. And so as I may be standing along the roadside watching this tumult, I'm totally perplexed. What's the deal? Why is this crowd all excited? Who is that man? And nobody around me can tell me. Suddenly a person is heard responding to another person asking, who was He? And they shout out, this is Jesus, the son of David. He's the king. And people are blown away by these statements. Who were the people that were celebrating Him? Who were the crowd that were following Him? There wasn't two million people with Him. We have no idea how many there were. But it's interesting to get back into the historical stuff and to find out that, that at a certain, in a certain area outside the city, that's where the people from Galilee were always found intense. You know, they didn't have holiday in. They didn't have Howard Johnson. Everybody loved camping. People carried tents everywhere they went. I've been watching the chosen. It's so interesting that they take the time to show you in their graphic, showing you of the lifestyle of Jesus

and the disciples, something we don't even pick up. They're pitching tent. Jesus had a tent. So there was this little tent city, but this is where the Galileans would stay. They'd all kind of stick together because they were really not welcomed by the rest. Remember there was one fellow who said, where's he from again? Nazareth? So maybe it's possible that something good king come out of Nazareth, Nazareth being located in Galilee. If you were a Galilean, you weren't as bad as a Sumerian, but you weren't good. Your family lineage was probably way down

here. You didn't have any Arthur Conan Doyle's in your family line. You weren't related to Abraham

Lincoln. You weren't even related to dare I say David Forrest. No, we don't even know who you are,

but we can tell when you open your mouth, you're a Galilean. So as a Galilean, you did not go among the upper crust. My cousin lives down in Florida and he lives just a couple of miles from the famous West Palm Beach. My cousin doesn't walk down the streets of that famous city where all

the mucking mucks gather and their beautiful attire because my cousin can't dress up just like they do.

You know they're wearing fifth avenue this or that. And you know, who's that guy walking along there in his sloppy slandles and his skinny legs? And so you know where you're welcome, you know where you're not welcome. But somebody got the word to the little tent city. As somebody

people had come from Galilee to celebrate the Passover. The excitement in the city was like electricity. Two and a half million folks come on think about it. The roads were fixed if there was any potholes they had to fix them. They had to paint the sepulchres, the gravestone. They painted

them white just in case somebody decided to go by the cemetery and it had to look nice. The little

children were all tutored a little bit to let them know this is what this is all about honey. As you get older you're going to appreciate the feast of the Passover. One of the greatest feasts of the entire year. Everything was set but watch this. The focus of the Passover was at the temple, not the Eastern Gate. So this humble fellow in a tire that was not be speaking royalty riding on a little donkey. What's this all about? People were stymied. What's this got to do with Passover? Think of what's this all about? It's like a sandy-closs parade at Halloween. It doesn't fit. What's going

on? Well who is he? I want to go quickly just to the end of my message right now. You might be happy to know I'm already beginning to close. How many like that? For those of you who are listening on the internet you did not hear the out loud chuckles. You didn't hear the applause. That was very weak. He's leaving. He's just about finished honey. It's okay. Lunch is on the way. If somebody says who is that man? Reading it does not tell you what that person really is thinking.

We know the question who is he. But you've got to hear the tone of the voice to know where that question's coming from. If you are a high person from West Palm Beach, if you're from downtown New York City, this is in Brooklyn, Brooklyn, honey, this is New York.

This is Times Square. This is way up here. You see something that kind of throws you off. You just might stand out there. This is the Passover. This is a sacred time. What's this rabble group? They're clearly Galileans. The word of God out to Jesus was coming from Bethany.

And the Galileans went crazy. Why did they go crazy? This is the man who walked on the water. He's famous for feeding thousands from a few remnants of food. He's the guy that stopped a funeral procession and raised the dead. That's who he is. Oh, are you impressed? Well, I'm a little surprised I hadn't heard about him. Has he been around here before?

The tone of their voice. Who's he? The tone of the voice, the tone of the voice might come from another individual standing there watching these people who are filled with joy, carrying on like it's Christmas morning in your favorite toy is there. Sani didn't leave you out. He delivered and the milk and the cookies are gone. What a morning.

And somebody watching all of this asks the same question, but when they ask the question, they really are intrigued and they want to know such joy, such singing. They weren't used to this kind of joyous singing. They were used to the songs of the temple. My mother makes better cookies

than your mother. But here these people are singing. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, and somebody might

inquire, wow, educate me. Tell me what's going on. Who is he? I really want to know.

That's the same question that's lingering among minds and hearts all over Canada today.

We talk about West Palm Beach. Let's talk about Ottawa.

Ah, pastor, no politics. Okay.

Who's he? You come into Vineland. Oh, let me tell you who he is.

The question of who's he? Why would you give him such room in your life? What's all the fuss about? What's going on here? I'm not, I'm not all that comfortable with all of this.

There was an exhilaration. There was excitement, but the excitement was about the liturgy.

The excitement was about them celebrating something that was old, archaic, great celebration.

We were rescued, but something new isn't foot. Something fresh is happening. He's not riding on a

huge horse. He's riding on a donkey, truly symbolic of his humility. And the word of God tells us, the whole crowd of disciples, see, who was the crowd singing? Followers, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God with loud voices. Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Not everybody was shouting that way. Some people were looking on the whole

thing as an interruption. I came dressed in my refinery. I was looking for it to a nice quiet, sedate thing. Excitement is okay, but please don't get carried away. Who is he anyhow? That was the question that Pilate asked. Who is this guy? What am I to do with him? And the crowd shouted crucify him. I am not going to walk out on some serious limb to suggest to you that a few days ago they shouted, Hosanna, and the same crowd says, crucify him. I can't connect

those dots. Two and a half million people in the city. I don't know how many were following Jesus.

Some of them informed because they were Galileans. Others got caught up in the euphoric thing, you know, almost like mass hysteria. I remember a few years ago there was an outbreak. I watched this. It was on the television. It was a news guy. And there's people in the street somewhere down in the southern part of the states and they were burning. They were looting. They were terrorizing the city. It was a university. People went crazy running the streets and carrying it. And a news guy caught a hole in some of these. They went, wait, wait, wait, come here, come here, come here. And seeing the microphone and the camera, this person was quite, oh, I'm going to be on television. And the, and the reporter said, what's this all about? He said, I don't know. But this is the most exciting thing to hit our town in a long while by and he took up screaming and hollering and ready to set fire to a car. So what was happening on the day of Jesus is coming through one of 12 gates. And you got Hosanna, Hosanna. There would be an element of people who would jump in. Because everybody loves a party. If it was a house on fire, we go watch it burn. But no, these people are gone berserk. They know something I don't know. I want to be a part of it. But there was another crowd that were not interested. And they were hearing some, some muttering, some some carrying on by the bourgeois, by the top fellows. They'd heard in the city of Jerusalem, they'd heard stories about this rogue rabbi who was talking disparagingly about us calling us white encephal curves and calling us a bunch of poisonous snakes. They were not impressed. This was going to cost them money. They might just lose power and we might have to answer to the Roman government. There was great concern about political unrest. Who is this guy? Is he coming to start a war? And if you were to talk to the people who are shouting Hosanna, Hosanna, they would say, yes. These people were rabble rousers. They're coming to celebrate the release from the bondage of Egypt. What if Jesus is coming now to release us from the bondage of the Romans? So the air was tense and there was trouble of brewing. So I need to, I need to wind us down this morning to remind us all that there's a question. Who is he? Then I want to be ready to answer anybody who would ask that question. I take great delight in answering the question. Oh him, Jesus, I'm so glad you asked. Sometimes a person isn't really asking, but I use a little wrinkle in something that they said and I'll jump all over it like a springboard. I'm kind of like saying, oh, I'm glad you asked about that and they really didn't ask, but I tripped them up and I love to talk about Jesus. And I find as soon as you start talking about Jesus, if it comes out of the abundance of your heart, if you can indicate, no, no, no, no, I know. I spent time with them this morning. You did? And people will respond. There is a hunger. I want to remind you of something that we don't want to get too focused on, but there's talk, talk and it's getting louder and louder and louder about what's happening

right around the corner. I just read an article the other day where somebody wrote in to a public blog, a public forum, and they said this from the top military people of the United States. And beyond that, there's talk. We're going to encounter the third world war within the next 24 months. And this person was asking this question. Should I live out as much as I can right now and get it over with? Is the world coming to an end? Our whole society right now is lost for answers. We got young people right now who are wasting themselves because they've come to the conclusion there isn't much longer. Let's drink. Be happy. Celebrate. Time is running out. I'm not going to be want to tell you it's all over. I'm not one to stand here and say the war is coming. The war is coming. I'm just saying that there's there's a lack of peace and there's a lack of assurance. And if ever people are looking for an answer, something that will help them, something that will encourage them it's right now. And trust me, it's out there. People are looking for answers. And it's our opportunity like Paul Harvey to say, well, let me tell you the rest of the story. I want to finish with this. Yeah, I've got about two minutes to go, two minutes ago. How do I talk to people about Jesus? Well, number one, if they're not Christian, they don't know a background. I don't start telling them what it says in the book of Romans. They don't know their own Roman numerals and they're trying to forget that they don't know anything about it. You don't say, well, it says in John 3 16. It means nothing to people who don't know the Bible. Don't know the don't use your Christian ease. And don't start quoting. Well, the word of God, well, the word of God will do this. No, no, listen to Pastor Dave, just closing here. The apostle says, you know what an epistle is, right? The epistle of Peter, the epistle, the epistles, we know what they are. Their writings, their stories. And the apostle said, you are living it. You are a living story. And he was comparing your story to what's recorded in the biblical epistles. How so, Pastor Dave? It says the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edges are. I've got to quote the book of Romans. No, you don't. When you tell your story based on your knowledge of the word of God, you are now speaking the word, but in a living form, in a believable form. When I tell somebody that there was a need in Florida last week, in our church, we prayed and suddenly news comes back in the very hour you were praying, God answered prayer. That's the word of God by his stripes. We're healed. That is the word of God. You are living little, little living Bibles. And the best thing you could do for somebody is, don't quote the book of Romans. Tell them your story. Tell them your story. I once was lost, but now, if you can't remember, well, you're amazing grace. Oh, yeah, start that. You know the song,

amazing. Let that be your little storyline. Amazing. Oh, let me tell you about how amazing it was.

There was a amazing grace that found a wretch like me. Oh, yeah, I was a wretch. Oh, I was a bad

guy. You don't want to know. I once was lost. Oh, yes, I was truly lost, but now I'm found. That is actually, if it's your story, that's the word of God in a powerful, convincing way.

When I tell people that God raised my wife off of a death badge consumed with cancer, that's more

powerful than saying Jesus healed the sick. That's 2,000 years ago. I want to tell them Jesus is healing the sick today. That is powerful. Hello. Who is he? Who is he? No, there are people who are

asking. Who is he? And you know what's helping you right now? Folks, seize the moment. Do you know

what's helping you? The series on television called the Chosen. Millions are watching it. And the other one that came out, help me the Jesus revolution. People are weeping over it. People are getting

saved through that. This is coming across as an answer. This is a glorious opportunity.

You say, I don't even know how to get the questions. You know what I'm asking people everywhere? Like on anywhere. Have you been watching the Chosen? The Chosen? Oh, yeah.

You've got to

go there. Look at it. That's an opening line and Tice them. Who is he? Watch the Chosen?

And you'll know who he is. What a glorious day. Are we on the brink of the Third World War?

I don't know about that. But the Word of God said it's coming and that will be a glorious day.

We're going home. Sorry about those here. Listen on the internet. I probably blew your ears off.

Sorry about that. Heavenly Father, thank you. Thank you. Thank you that we have the privilege of shouting Hosanna to the King of Kings. Thank you Lord that we have the answer. Who is that man?

What's all the hallelujah? Thank you Jesus. We're very much aware. What a day. What an hour to tell people about the lover of my soul. How beautiful, how tender he is to me. He's the answer to my prayer. He's the sweetness of my coffee. He's my joy in the morning. He's my peace

at night. Jesus. There's nobody like him. Amen. Oh, that was poor. I'm gonna pre- okay.