

Monday, March 10

Matthew 21:1-11

### Your king comes

I always wonder what *'all the people in the crowd'* were thinking on this celebrating day. I wonder the same thing when people hear our national anthem somewhere outside a sports event and start cheering at the end as if that's part of the national anthem. I wonder the same thing when people hear Taps played on Memorial Day, or celebrate a nomination at a political convention, or line up early to get Cubs tickets, or stand up to cheer at the end of an opera, or gather to eat at a Fourth of July Barbeque, or join the hordes of children Trick or Treating at Halloween - I wonder what people are thinking.

What I know is aptly expressed by Peterson's translation of Matthew 21:4 - This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: *"Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright ? 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group."*[biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=6](http://biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=6)

*"Sketched earlier"* - How true those words ring in the aftermath of dad's visitation and funeral at the end of last week - we never get more than a 'sketch' of what's always going on. People tell stories, people share memories, people summarize observations, people express feelings. Always there are dimensions of the 'loved one' that never appeared during their lifetime.

I suppose we could be upset by this 'too late,' 'too little' process, but I'd rather celebrate what we 'get finally.' It reminds me, yet again, that I seldom have the whole picture, rarely get the true story, hardly ever know what's really going on. I have a 'sketch.' Even when Matthew celebrates the 'full story' in what we call Palm Sunday's events, I know that the crowd, any person in the crowd, all the people together in the crowd, still have only a sketch of all that's happening. God, keep me faithful to what I do know, keep me honest with what I don't know, and keep leading me to the full story of your mercy and grace for your creation.

#### A Way to Pray – Prayer Beads

- Pick up (or make) any string of beads
- Prepare to listen to your heart by holding 1 hand over your belly button and the other hand with the beads over your heart – take 3 long, deep breaths
- Hold 1 bead & ask “Since the last time I prayed, when I did I feel my heart awakening?” Hold 1 minute.
- Repeat with a new bead with each new answer.