

Today, we will look at Jesus' journey into Jerusalem and examine how the aspects of his journey reflect our spiritual journeys. I hope that you see yourself in his journey.

What does Jesus' journey into Jerusalem mean to you? Why should you be interested in this story?

Today is Palm Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He was coming as a spiritual leader, but most people who held palm branches over his head and spread their cloaks in his path believed he was entering the city as a warrior king. People thought Jesus was going to throw off the yoke of Roman rule and free the Jewish people. He came to prove spiritual principles to help people connect with their higher selves to overcome their challenges and live powerfully.

The metaphysical understandings that we can learn from this story will help us prepare our consciousness for what appears to be the trials, crucifixions, and resurrections that we often experience on our spiritual journey of love.

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus stopped at a village called *Bethphage* at the Mount of Olives. From there, he rode a *donkey* into the *walled city of Jerusalem*, where a rejoicing multitude greeted him.

When we examine metaphysics within a Bible story, we look for a deeper spiritual meaning. The people and places in Bible stories reflect our spiritual evolution on our journey toward our Christ potential's full expression.

Here is the metaphysical interpretation of Jesus' journey into the city of Jerusalem:

Bethphage: Bethphage means "*The house of figs*" and is not just a geographical location; it's a spiritual checkpoint. Bethphage asks us, "*Are we nurturing the fig tree within? Are we bearing the fruits of love, compassion, and faith in our journey?*" As we ponder the significance of this ancient name, let's allow it to guide us towards introspection and growth, much like the fig trees stretching towards the sky, deeply rooted yet reaching for the divine. Bethphage is a place in consciousness where truth and love are realized.

Donkey: A donkey stands for humility and service. Unlike the horses that kings and warriors would ride, symbols of power and conquest, the donkey is a creature of the earth, grounded, steady, and unassuming. It's as if the universe is whispering, "*True strength lies in humility, and true leadership is in serving others.*" The donkey is a beautiful symbol of how we, too, can carry the divine within us, walking our daily paths with grace embodying the qualities of humility and service in the most mundane of tasks.

Walled City: The walls of the city represent the resistance we have to being vulnerable and showing our hearts. The walls of the city are our internal defense mechanisms. When the ego part of us becomes afraid, the walls go up. When we feel threatened, hurt, depressed, or angry, we hide behind these walls and do not experience the peace, love, or life that lies within the inner city of our soul. We can let down the walls by releasing our doubts and fears.

Affirmation: I release these fears and false beliefs; they have no power over me.

Jerusalem: Jerusalem is the city of peace. It stands for the spiritual center of consciousness. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem stands for our journey inward to that peaceful place where we receive spiritual sustenance.

Rejoicing Multitude: The rejoicing multitude and the spreading of their garments and branches before Jesus, symbolizes the joyful celebration we experience when the error state of mind is overcome.

St. Augustine once experienced a series of visions of Christ, but they disappeared. Filled with anguish at the loss, the saint cried out to Christ to return. Out of the darkness, he heard, "*I have disappeared right before your eyes for you to return into your heart to find me.*" This is the journey of love.

Affirmation: I humbly and joyfully journey to the center of my divine being.