

## How to become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.

JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast."* EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 (NIV)

## Palm Sunday: A Day of Visitation

Luke 19:28-44 (ESV)

*Don't miss Jesus*

### The Lord prepares His own way

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it."  
Luke 19:28-34 (ESV)

### Jesus came as the Messiah.

- Prophecy of Zachariah 9:9, (Isaiah 62:11), Matthew 21:4-5
- Prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:18-19

### Jesus was in control of the timing and purpose of His own death.

- Jesus gave His life willingly for us.

<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.  
John 10:17-18 (ESV)

- Jesus gave His life as a payment for our sin.

<sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:23-24 (ESV)

- Jesus gave His as a substitute for us.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (ESV)

### The disciples praise Jesus as King!

<sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Luke 19:35-38 (ESV)

### God is praised because of the mighty works of Jesus (Matthew 5:16)

### Disciples understanding

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

John 12:16 (ESV)

### The downside of the crowds

### The opposed confront Jesus

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19:39-40 (ESV)

### The disciples are criticized.

There are always attempts to silence the praise of Jesus.

Jesus’ position is constantly challenged.

### Jesus weeps over the nation that rejects Him.

<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” Luke 19:41-44 (ESV)

### “Even you...” speaks to privilege

### Jesus’ statement of judgment over the nation

### Don’t miss Jesus

“The entry encompasses the different kinds of responses to Jesus. Some know who he is and serve him, following his instructions. Others are open, but not with much understanding. Still others are hostile toward him. Even the creation has a response to what is occurring. A famous saying goes, “All the world is a stage and we are merely players in it.” Yet as the heavens watch, the question remains: which response do we support?”

D.L. Bock, Luke