

## **This Moment**

John 12:12-50

by Don Falkos

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Jesus was on his way from Bethany to Jerusalem riding a young donkey, just as the prophet Zechariah had predicted. A large crowd of Passover celebrants went out from Jerusalem to meet him. They were excited about Jesus having raised Lazarus from the dead. The crowd waved palm branches and shouted:

Praise God!

Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the King of Israel!

The religious leaders were disturbed. "It seems like the whole world is running after him!"

Jesus was informed that some foreigners wanted to meet him. He responded, "Well, it seems my time has come. Unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it will produce a plentiful harvest of new lives. My soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this moment'? No! This moment is the reason I came! Instead, I say, 'Father, glorify your name.' "

A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." Some thought they were hearing thunder; others believed an angel had responded to Jesus' prayer.

Jesus declared, "The ruler of this world is about to be driven out. When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself. Believe in the light while the light is still with you; then you will become children of the light." Then Jesus went away and hid from the crowd.

Despite everything Jesus had said and done, most people still didn't believe in him. But some did, including some of the Jewish leaders, though they didn't talk about their belief for fear of excommunication.