

Luke 19:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.

Analysis

They cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon (ἐπιρίψαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ιμάτια ἐπὶ τὸν πῶλον ἐπεβίβασαν τὸν Ἰησοῦν, epiripsantes autōn ta himatia epi ton pōlon epebibasan ton Iēsoun). The disciples' garments (ιμάτια, himatia) function as an improvised saddle and royal cushion. This action echoes Jehu's coronation, when captains spread their garments under him (2 Kings 9:13). The verb cast upon (ἐπιρίπτω, epiriptō) suggests enthusiastic haste—they honor Jesus as king without hesitation.

By setting Jesus thereon (ἐπεβίβασαν, epebibasan), the disciples physically enthroned Him for His approach to Jerusalem. This is Luke's only description of Jesus riding an animal—He normally walked. The mounting marks a deliberate departure from His usual humble transportation, a visible claim to Davidic kingship precisely at the moment when He approaches David's city to fulfill David's covenant.

Historical Context

Spreading garments for someone to walk or ride upon was an ancient Near Eastern gesture of homage to royalty. Outer garments (himatia) were valuable—often a person owned only one or two. The disciples' willingness to use their clothing as a saddle showed lavish devotion. This occurred on the Sunday before Passover, traditionally called Palm Sunday in Christian tradition.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'garments'—symbols of your identity, comfort, or status—is Jesus asking you to lay down for His purposes?
2. How does the disciples' immediate, enthusiastic service contrast with religious service done grudgingly or for show?
3. Why do you think Luke emphasizes this as the only time Jesus rode an animal during His ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἤγαγον αὐτὸν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἐπιρρίψαντες
And they brought him to Jesus And and

ἐαυτῶν τὰ ιμάτια ἐπὶ τὸν πῶλον ἐπεβίβασαν τὸν
their G3588 garments upon G3588 the colt thereon G3588

Ἰησοῦν

Jesus
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Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:7 (Parallel theme): And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

John 12:14 (References Jesus): And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

