

# Luke 19:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.

## Analysis

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**And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way** (πορευομένου...ὑπεστρώννυν τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῶν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ, poreuomenou...hypestōnnyon ta himatia autōn en tē hodō). The imperfect tense spread (ὑπεστρώννυν, hypestōnnyon) indicates continuous action—they kept spreading garments as Jesus progressed. This spontaneous act of worship transforms the dusty road into a royal carpet, creating a 'way' (ὁδός, hodos—the same term used for 'the Way' of Christian discipleship in Acts).

The crowd's actions fulfill messianic expectation without Jesus explicitly commanding it. Like John the Baptist who prepared 'the way of the Lord' (3:4), these disciples literally prepare the way before Him. Their outer garments symbolize laying their very selves before Christ's feet. This extravagant devotion previews Mary's anointing (which John places earlier, at Bethany) and anticipates the early church's radical generosity.

## Historical Context

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Spreading garments before a king was an ancient coronation ritual (2 Kings 9:13). In the Roman Empire, conquered peoples sometimes spread clothing before victorious generals during triumphal processions. The crowd's action thus carried both Jewish messianic and Greco-Roman royal overtones. The road from Bethany to Jerusalem was likely rocky and dusty—spreading garments would cushion the colt's path and honor the rider.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does it cost you to 'spread your garments' before Jesus in daily worship and submission?
2. How does this scene challenge comfortable, low-cost expressions of devotion to Christ?
3. In what sense should the Christian life involve continuously 'preparing the way' for Christ's presence?

## Interlinear Text

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πορευομένου	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	ὑπεστρώνυσον	τὰ	ἱμάτια	αὐτῶν
as he went	And	G846	they spread	G3588	clothes	G846
G4198	G1161		G5291		G2440	
ἐν	τῇ	ὁδῷ				
in	G3588	the way				
G1722		G3598				

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 9:13** (Parallel theme): Then they hastened, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.