

# Luke 19:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

## Analysis

**The whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen** (ἄπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν...αἰνεῖν τὸν θεὸν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, hapan to plēthos tōn mathētōn...ainein ton theon phōnē megalē). The phrase whole multitude emphasizes unanimous worship—not just the Twelve, but all disciples present. Praise (αἰνέω, aineō) means to tell forth God's excellence; with a loud voice (φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, phōnē megalē) indicates unrestrained exuberance, likely singing the Hallel Psalms (113-118).

Luke uniquely specifies they praised God **for all the mighty works** (περὶ πασῶν ὡν εἶδον δυνάμεων, peri pasōn hōn eidon dynameōn)—the healings, exorcisms, nature miracles, and especially Lazarus's resurrection. Their worship flows from witnessed evidence, not mere emotion. The descent of the Mount of Olives brought Jerusalem into view, triggering this crescendo of praise as Jesus appeared to claim His city.

## Historical Context

The descent from the Mount of Olives provided a dramatic vantage point where pilgrims would catch their first view of Jerusalem's Temple gleaming in the sun. Jewish pilgrims traditionally sang the Hallel Psalms (including Psalm 118:25-26,

'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!') as they approached Jerusalem for Passover. The crowd's praise fulfilled these liturgical expectations while directing them explicitly at Jesus.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How would your worship deepen if it were rooted more in 'mighty works you have seen' rather than abstract theology?
2. What does the phrase 'whole multitude' teach about corporate worship—is your praise joining with or isolated from the church?
3. Why do you think the sight of Jerusalem triggered this explosion of praise from those who knew Jesus's predictions about the city?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐγγίζοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἦδη πρὸς τῇ καταβάσει  
And when he was come nigh even now at the descent  
G1448 G1161 G846 G2235 G4314 G3588 G2600

τοῦ Ὄρους τῶν Ἐλαιῶν ἤρξαντο ἄπαν τὸ πλῆθος  
of the mount of Olives began the whole multitude  
G3588 G3735 G3588 G1636 G756 G537 G3588 G4128

τῶν μαθητῶν χαίροντες αἰνεῖν τὸν θεὸν φωνῇ  
of the disciples to rejoice and praise God voice  
G3588 G3101 G5463 G134 G3588 G2316 G5456

μεγάλῃ περὶ πασῶν ὡν εἶδον δυνάμεων  
with a loud for all that they had seen the mighty works  
G3173 G4012 G3956 G3739 G1492 G1411

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 13:3** (Parallel theme): And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

**Mark 14:26** (Parallel theme): And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

**Matthew 21:1** (Parallel theme): And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,