

# Matthew 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

## Analysis

**A very great multitude spread their garments in the way**—Ancient enthronement ritual (2 Kings 9:13). The Greek πλεῖστος ὅχλος (pleistos ochlos) means 'the vast majority.' **Others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way**—likely palm fronds (John 12:13), symbols of Jewish nationalism and victory since the Maccabean revolt.

The crowd enacted coronation ceremony for Jesus as Davidic king, yet within days would cry 'Crucify him!' This fickle adoration reveals human hearts: eager for a political deliverer to overthrow Rome, unwilling to embrace a suffering Messiah who demands heart-surrender.

## Historical Context

Passover celebrated Israel's liberation from Egypt, making it prime time for revolutionary fervor. The crowds expected Messiah to restore David's kingdom now. Their palm branches echoed 1 Maccabees 13:51, when Simon Maccabeus liberated Jerusalem (142 BC) to great rejoicing with 'branches of palm trees.'

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. When have you enthusiastically praised Jesus for what you wanted Him to do, rather than for who He is?
2. How does the crowd's fickleness warn against popularity-driven faith versus cross-bearing discipleship?

## Interlinear Text

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ο	δὲ	πλεῖστος	ὄχλος	ἐστρώνυνον	έαυτῶν	τὰ	ἱμάτια
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>a very great</b>	<b>multitude</b>			G3588	<b>garments</b>
	G1161	G4118	G3793	G4766		G1438	G2440
ἐν	τῇ	όδῷ	ἄλλοι	δὲ	ἔκοπτον	κλάδους	ἀπὸ
in	G3588	<b>the way</b>	G243	<b>And</b>	<b>cut down</b>	<b>branches</b>	<b>from</b>
G1722		G3598		G1161	G2875	G2798	G3588
δένδρων	καὶ	ἐστρώνυνον	ἐν	τῇ	όδῷ		
<b>the trees</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>spread</b>	<b>in</b>	G3588	<b>the way</b>		
G1186	G2532	G4766	G1722		G3598		

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 12:13** (Parallel theme): Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

**2 Kings 9:13** (Parallel theme): Then they hasted, 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.

