

4-10-22 Sermon #13

Palm Sunday

One Palm Sunday, a little boy had a sore throat and had to stay home from church with a sitter. When the rest of the family came home, they were carrying palm branches. The little boy asked what they were for.

His father told him that people held them over Jesus' head when he walked by.

In a sad, disappointed voice, the little boy said, "Wouldn't you know it? The one Sunday I miss, Jesus shows up!"

PRAY

PALM SUNDAY - Who is this Jesus? The very first message that I shared, I asked the question, "WHO IS THIS JESUS". For today and during the upcoming week, I would like to challenge everyone with putting yourselves in the culture and times of when Jesus walked on the Earth. If we go back and read the sections of the gospels that pertain to the resurrection and look at the book of Zechariah chapter 9, we can feel how much God wants all mankind to know Him.

Starting in Zechariah 9:9 we read; *9:9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* God planned for this day long before Christ walked on Earth. Today, most of what I'll share will come from Luke but all of the gospels tell the story in a little different way. If you would like to turn to Luke 19:28 we'll begin there. Luke 19 is when Jesus is preparing to come into Jerusalem. *28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. (Why would He want a colt that has never been ridden?) Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They replied, "The Lord needs it." These verses establish two things. Jesus knows all things and Jesus is now getting ready to face the reality for what is to come upon Him. 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.* Luke doesn't use the word palms, that's seen in John. This is talking about their clothing. People are using their possessions and taking a part of themselves to put on the ground. They are laying it down for the colt to walk on and to give what is theirs to be soiled. Even Mary with how she used her hair to wipe the perfume on Christ is a total act of humbleness. *37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: They're traveling 4.4*

miles to Jerusalem while saying, 38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”. Luke doesn’t use the word Hosanna either. In John 12;13 it reads *John 12; 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! [d]” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” [e] “Blessed is the king of Israel!”*

Hosanna is often thought of as a declaration of praise, similar to [hallelujah](#), but it is actually a plea for salvation. The Hebrew root words are found in [Psalm 118:25](#), which says, “Save us, we pray, O LORD!” (ESV). The Hebrew words *yasha* (“deliver, save”) and *anna* (“beg, beseech”) combine to form the word that, in English, is “hosanna.” Literally, *hosanna* means “I beg you to save!” or “please deliver us!”

This is when the people know that Jesus isn’t just a prophet. They are acknowledging that He is truly the KING who SAVES. I love this next sentence, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” 40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” In order to get the true heart effect, I’d like to look a little further back and see a couple of key points that lead up to Palm Sunday. In Matthew 26;39 after the last supper Jesus went off to pray. 39 *Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* Jesus knows that the time has come. He’s surrendering His will to the will of God. I couldn’t imagine what Jesus must have been feeling knowing that He was going to go through the most grueling death anyone could have to go through. If we look at the beginning of John 12. It shows us another very meaningful point. 12 *Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint [a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages. [b]” 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, [c] but you will not always have me.” 9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. Moving down to vs. 17 *Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”**

Today, the church is recognizing the way people laid down their cloaks and the importance of waving palm branches over Christ. Using my heart and placing myself in the culture, shows

me just how real God is. Feeling the passion that Christ had for everyone and feeling the hope that all the lowly got from Him is incredible. It wasn't the leaders or the rich that embraced Christ, it was the ones who were healed, poor, rejected and of FAITH. It wasn't just the Gentiles. Many of these people were Jews. They witnessed Jesus' healings and they heard Jesus' words. The HOPE of being saved was connected to Jesus' teachings and miracles. I don't think it was just to be saved from their oppressors. Jesus continually fed them, healed them and just loved them. The hope, the joy, the freedom that Jesus brought to all those who believed had reached its highest peak.

Today is Palm Sunday and it can reveal many different emotions. For us, it's all about having confidence and celebrating our gift of Heaven. For the followers of Jesus at that time, this was when they knew without a doubt that "Jesus is the true king". Nothing about this day was what the Jewish leaders could of expected. Pilate was a Jew and he his wife had a dream about this. She told him not to do anything against Jesus. As their king, He needed to prevent anything that would cause conflict or as we would describe, a protest. Jesus disrupted their Passover and this occurred right after the people were celebrating the miracle in Lazarus. They all knew that no prophet could of done this kind of miracle and only God could restore life. Was it intentional that Jesus waited till Lazarus was dead and in a tomb for 4 days? Healing Lazarus proved His words. "If you see me you see the Father". This miracle convinced many Jewish people that Jesus was who He said He was. Through Christ, all can be saved. If we Go back to Luke 19;28, Jesus tells His disciples to go find a unriden colt/donkey. He didn't ask them to get a horse. Kings rode horses to represent power. They used horses during war or a battle. A donkey was used to transport royalty during times of peace. Visions of gentleness and humbleness also comes with the donkey. Thousands of people from many distant areas had to be present. They had to witness Jesus coming into Jerusalem and the amount of praising and shouts of Hosanna must have roared throughout the city. I can picture all the cloaks being laid down for Him. I can see the palms being waved over Jesus. The awe and the joy that came over His followers had to be breath taking. I also love picturing how it created total confusion to the leaders of the law but when I read Luke 19;41 it can bring a sadness. In 19;41 **41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."** This wasn't just a tear coming down His cheek. It was true weeping. Even though Jesus was being faced with the reality of what was to come, Jesus tells the future and He didn't want this. He knows that this is forever to be hidden from them. Christ doesn't want anyone to suffer or be lost. For us, God puts joy and praise in the heart. Shouts of "Hosanna" is our response. Salvation was at hand. Knowing that Jesus saves and that Heaven is ours to have, is the ultimate gift. "Hosanna" is a plea for salvation. "I beg you to save!" or "please deliver us!" When we place ourselves in the presence of Christ and picture all of the different responses, the emotion part of our heart will connect with our brain. By FAITH, we get to celebrate His death. We get to have joy and rejoicing in knowing that we will be in HEAVEN with Him. We will someday get to see Him sitting at the right hand of the Father. Being in HEAVEN is the reward for believing by FAITH. Knowing that we will never again have to experience pain or suffering or death. What Jesus is getting ready to do is why we can have confidence in what we can't see. Streets of gold, transparent visions, forever rejoicing and no

more "TEARS" is for us. Accepting what Christ came to Earth to do is the only way to know this. Feel the excitement and the passion that the followers of Christ had. Bowing, singing, praising and every other great emotion. When Christ came into Jerusalem on that donkey it had to be breath taking. "Jesus is the king"! We can rejoice in knowing that our citizenship is in God, We're free! We can be bold about Christ. His followers had to fear death for what we're free to do. What Jesus represents and what He did by enduring this week of His crucifixion is what changed the world in the blink of an eye. Anyone who by FAITH believes. They're freed from the bondage of death. No longer does anyone who believe, have to live by the law or fear the oppressors. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We're washed white as snow. No more darkness, no more separation, no more crying. By FAITH we will never have to feel the sting of death again. Palm Sunday also represents the ability to know true Love, peace, joy, hope and purity. We can go through the rest of today and for the days to come and listen to all the emotions of our hearts. During the upcoming week try to let this day overcome any evil thoughts that come into your brain. Try to connect to why His followers had to come and be present to witness Palm Sunday. Connect to the emotional part of the heart when you think about Jesus' prayers and with the healing of Lazarus. God didn't just do this for us. He did it so that even the Jews who were witnessing could also feel the immense power of Christ. Try to picture the magnitude of those who we're putting their clothes down, see Mary wiping Jesus' feet with her hair and perfume. Feel the passion and palms waving over Jesus. Try being one of the people that are yelling "Hosanna". Every sin, every transgression, every hurt and every pain is getting ready to get washed away. Heaven is the gift for all because of His life on EARTH. It's not earned or deserved. It's God's gift of MERCY and GRACE. God's character of love for all of us is being proved through Jesus' sacrifice. He just wants us to ask for forgiveness so we can receive MERCY. It's because of our sin that God was willing to have Christ endure what was ahead. We know that Jesus prayed to God and asked Him to remove this but God loves us so much that God wants us to celebrate this day instead of mourning over it. The shouts of Hosanna just keep ringing out from the people the entire time that Jesus is entering the city. Today, millions of people are acknowledging that Jesus is who He said He was. If we see Jesus we see the Father.

Shout, "SAVE US NOW!"

LETS PRAY