

Palm Sunday

John 12:12-19

So, what's the big deal about Palm Sunday? Let me answer that by tell you a story. (The legend about an ancient village in Spain who found out that the King was coming.) One villager reasoned, "I'll withhold my best wine and substitute it with water. With so many cups of wine in the vat, the king will never know the difference." The problem was, everyone else thought the same thing. When the King took a drink of the watered down version of their best, the king was dishonored.

Palm Sunday is all about a day when the King of Kings is greatly honored because the people gave the very best they had, a gift of praise.

- Let's look back to the Old Testament to give us a picture of what is being played out on Palm Sunday.

Zechariah 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."

- Zechariah uttered these words 700 years prior to Christ's triumphal entry! It's interesting to note that the translation of Zechariah's name means (Yahweh) which means "The Lord Remembers." God is faithful to fulfill His Word! He waits for the right timing and then He acts. If God has spoken something to you and you are still waiting, DON'T GIVE UP because "Yahweh remembers!!" Hold fast, keep believing!! And while you are waiting, be in preparation for God's word to be fulfilled in your life.

- God is the great master planner. He waited 700 years to fulfill what Zechariah had prophesied because the time was right. Let's look at the fulfillment of that prophesy in JOHN 12:15 "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."
- The donkey symbolizes two things: Royalty and Sacredness. At the time of Jesus, the donkey was a prized, valuable, and noble creature that helped people do their work, put food on the table, and carry heavy loads or burdens. The donkey was also ridden by the wealthy and powerful people. In 1 Kings we see King Solomon riding on a donkey to his inauguration as he was anointed King of Israel. Kings would also arrive to a city riding a donkey to show their peaceful intentions. A stallion would represent a conquering king or is seen as an intention for war.
- Jesus wasn't coming to overthrow the government, but to save the people from their sins!!
- This day marked the beginning of the end for Jesus's earthly life. The first day in what was to be his last week. Passion Week! This weekend would take Jesus to a cross on Friday morning, into a tomb on Friday night and all day Saturday, then to His resurrection on Sunday morning. This is the culmination of His mission; and that is to seek and save that which was lost.
- Notice that it is Passover (explain what Passover is). Jesus didn't pick some random day to ride into town. This was the biggest and most celebrated Jewish feast. In fact, the Passover Feast is the oldest celebration in recorded history, and it is celebrated still today. People from all over Israel made their way to Jerusalem to celebrate God's mighty hand of freeing the Jews from Egyptian bondage during the days of Moses.

- Jesus knew this would be His last time there!! As Jesus was riding down the street, the people began to shout “Hosanna in the highest!!” This translates in the Hebrew “save us now.”
- They were laying palm branches and their own cloaks down on the street as Jesus passed by. With tremendous shouts of praise, they worshipped!!
- These people were familiar with the prophecy, after all they are Jews. They also knew how much time had passed since it had been foretold about the soon coming King, and to see it unfold right before their eyes made them burst forth with praise!!!
- These people were not too concerned about their coats when they placed it on the street as Jesus passed by. The only suitable reaction was sheer praise!!
And jubilee!!
- Notice again what the crowd was saying, “Hosanna” which means save us. But save us from what? They thought Jesus was going to take down the Roman government. That’s why Jesus wept. Let’s pick it up in Luke 19:39-44.
- Notice what He said, “You did not know the time of your visitation.” Jesus said in Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”
- This one statement changed the world forever!! Think about it. If Jesus only came to save the Jews from Roman oppression, then there would be NO hope for

the rest of the world. Jesus had more on His mind than the Roman occupation of Israel. He had humanity on His mind!!!

- Humanity kept Jesus on the cross and through His death came the redemption of us all!! Don't miss "your time of visitation" this morning.
- Today is the beginning of Passion Week. Don't let this week go by without asking Jesus to visit you. Renew your praise today, and if you don't know Jesus invite Him in and in return give Him praise!!