

## "PALM SUNDAY-UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL"

### I. [John 12:12-29](#)

A. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were very close friends of Jesus. While we don't know how Jesus of Nazareth became friends with these three siblings from Bethany, we know they were very close. It was Martha who complained about her sister, Mary, when Jesus was a guest at their house--Martha labored in the kitchen while Mary sat at Jesus' feet. It was Mary & Martha's brother who Jesus raised from the dead. Two key events take place just before Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey; the resurrection of His friend Lazarus and His anointing in Bethany by Mary... We pick up right there...

B. All 4 Gospels give accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Today we draw our text from John 12:12-29...

- 1) V12-15: *"The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"* (Zechariah prophecies 500 years earlier that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey--see Zechariah 9:9...)
- 2) V17-18: *"The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign."* (Despite Jesus having raised Lazarus from the dead, Jewish leaders hatched plots to kill them both...)
- 3) V19: *"So the Pharisees said to one another, 'You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.'" (Crowds are fickle, public opinion is liquid, and some of these same folks would be yelling 'crucify Him!' by Friday...)*
- 4) V23-24: *"And Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'" (Jesus' true triumph was not His ride into Jerusalem but His death on the cross, resurrection from the dead and ascension to His rightful throne in heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords...)*
- 5) V27-29: *"Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." (God spoke aloud to Jesus 3 times: His baptism; transfiguration; here...)*

C. Is there anything new in these verses for you today or is it just the *same ole same ole* Palm Sunday story? Here's what I recommend...

- 1) Put yourself in the crowd. Maybe you cut a fresh palm branch to wave or among those who tossed their cloak on the road. Maybe you were shouting your favorite OT Messiah prophecies. Maybe you just came for the Passover with your bleating lambs never realizing you'd encounter the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...
- 2) Ask yourselves these questions: What would Jesus have to do to keep you on His side vs going over to the Jewish leaders side or to the Romans side? A miracle? Bloodying up some Roman soldiers? Perhaps you'd rather He rode in on a warhorse? Maybe you hoped angels had shown up to wipe out the Roman legions stationed around Jerusalem? Maybe it would have bothered you that Jesus kept predicting His own death? Would you have been puzzled or disturbed by His parables? Would you have lost confidence when Jesus wasn't able to avoid betrayal or elude arrest and trial? Maybe you'd hoped He'd put up a better fight? Perhaps you thought He'd heal your sick friends, raise your dead parents, while slaying all your nation's enemies?
- 3) Would you have turned on Him like the rest of the crowd? (*Even the disciples deserted Him at His arrest and Peter denied Him at His trial.*) Would you have been more courageous and stouthearted than the disciples? Would you have cowered in fear or joined the popular crowd, shouting for Barabbas' release and the execution of Jesus? Does it make you nervous even now to think of yourself being in something other than the "in crowd?"
- 4) Many of you have heard the Gospel preached over the years--by me or by others. You've heard what Paul called the Message of first importance. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV) *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."* But let me ask: Have you truly heard God speak to your heart of hearts or have you merely heard thunder?
- 5) And flash back to the area near Lazarus' tomb and the question Jesus asked Martha before raising her brother from the dead: John 11:25-27 (NIV) *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."* So, do you hear thunder or do you hear God speaking to your heart?

D. Psalm 118:21-29 may sound familiar... It was some of these verses that the crowd shouted on that very first Palm Sunday as Jesus rode into Jerusalem... Now it can be the confessional prayer of our hearts and the Benediction that takes us home today...

**\* Psalm 118:21-29** *"I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation. The Stone the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless You. The Lord is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give You thanks; You are my God, and I will exalt You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."*

**\* Close with Prayer...**

### **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

#### **John 12:12-29 (ESV)**

**12** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. **17** The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him." **20** Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. **27** "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." **29** The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

#### **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)**

**3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

#### **John 11:25-27 (NIV)**

**25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

#### **Psalm 118:21-29 (NIV)**

**21** I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. **22** The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; **23** the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. **24** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success! **26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. **27** The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. **29** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

### **Edifying Video Clips**

**Palm Sunday - From "The Gospel of John"**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMbF\\_6c1EZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMbF_6c1EZE)

**"Passion Song" by Sean Carter**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzatBcvbohQ>

**Palm Sunday - Spirit Juice Studios (Very Potent!)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Vor55BoE0>

"Behold the Lamb" - Stuart Townend (Passion of the Christ)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DfF4Zs79T8>

"Shout Hosanna" - The Donut Man & Kids

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rem79QoAwtY>

### Bonus Stuff

#### What Palm Sunday Is All About

By Tom Barnard

The crowd was clueless. They never got it right. They shouted praises. He wept. They looked for a warrior-king riding a white stallion. They got a carpenter riding a donkey. They wanted hype. They got a healer. They wanted a prophet. They got One who fulfilled prophecy. They wanted a scepter. They got a Savior. They got nothing they asked for but everything they needed. Only they never got it. They were clueless. Jesus was the only One there who really knew what was happening on that first Palm Sunday.

It's so easy to become like those people in Jerusalem. We think we know what's going on, but we really don't have a clue. We have a bad week, and we blame God. Our kids act out, and we blame the school. We work two jobs and wonder why things aren't better at home. Jesus comes to our town, and He wants to help; but we don't recognize Him for who He is. We think He will be impressed with our boats and our businesses and our stuff. He is not. He wants our hearts. That's what Palm Sunday is all about.

#### Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, **5** "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" **6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. **8** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" **10** And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" **11** And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

#### Mark 11:1-11 (ESV)

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" **11** And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

#### Luke 19:28-44 (ESV)

**28** And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" **32** So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. **33** And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** And they said, "The Lord has need of it." **35** And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. **36** And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. **37** As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, **38** saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **39** And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." **40** He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent,

the very stones would cry out." **41** And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, **42** saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. **43** For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side **44** and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

#### **Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)**

**16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

#### **Matthew 17:1-8 (ESV)**

**1** And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **3** And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **4** And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." **5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. **7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." **8** And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

#### **Boy Who Missed Church on Palm Sunday**

A little boy was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "*Why do you have that palm branch, dad?*" "*You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved Palm Branches to honor Him, so we got Palm Branches today.*" The little boy replied, "*Aw Shucks! The one Sunday I miss is the Sunday that Jesus shows up!*"

- Quoted from <http://www.fbcpendleton.org/sermons/4-16-00.htm>

#### **Sermon Quote by Matthew Rogers**

"When I consider the story of that first Palm Sunday, I am struck by the thought that: A coat might not be worth much after a donkey walks on it. In a crowd like that there was no guarantee that once you laid it down you were ever going to get it back. For some reason, the text leads me to believe those people probably weren't real interested in coats at that moment when Jesus rode by. No, these people, many of them probably very poor, weren't as concerned about coats as they were about praise. For the people on Palm Sunday, praising Jesus might have cost them something. That sounds a little bit like a sacrifice. The Bible speaks of a sacrifice of praise. Fitting, isn't it, for Someone who saved our lives by sacrificing His own."

- Matthew Rogers, Senior Minister, Christian Church Of Clarendon Hills, western suburb of Chicago, Illinois.