

# Easter Series 3 - Palm Sunday

## Last Week

We talked about the sacrificial system in Leviticus. This system taught the Israelites that God can be approached only with the blood of a worthy substitute. However, none of the animals offered in these sacrifices could, in themselves, take away a person's sin or truly pay the debt for sin. But by offering these sacrifices in faith, the people of the Old Testament demonstrated their faith in God and their future hope Christ, the superior, once-for-all sacrifice, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. The reason it matters to look at the the sacrifices of the Old Testament is to show how us the real cost Sin has and the way that God offers redemption and reconciliation throughout the blood of a substitute.

We also talked about The Passover which is the most important event in Old Testament history. It was a turning point, a defining moment for the Jewish people. Everything changed for them with Passover. God rescued, preserved, and called them out to be His people in their own land. Immediately upon their departure from Egypt, He instituted the Feast of Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread) as an everlasting memorial to their deliverance. God set up a tradition for Israel to intentionally remember what He had done for them in the Passover and Exodus.

### Passover Instructions in order to escape the death of the 10th plague:

- One male lamb without blemish per house
- Bring lamb in on 10th day of the month
- Kill lamb on 14th day of the month at midnight
  - (according to our clock that would be 12:00am on 15th day)
- Paint blood on their house
- Roast the lamb whole
  - Nothing was broken or wasted

## The Triumphant Entry

### John 12:12-19

*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."*

- The context:
  - This is the 10th day of first month, the official beginning of the Passover Feast
  - Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead
    - "I am the resurrection and the life"
- Palm leaves/branches = victory parade

## Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecy

### John 12:16

*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.*

- The disciples didn't understand at first, but when they reflected on what happened to Jesus they saw that these things were pointing to Him being the Messiah.

### John 12:13

*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!"*

### Psalms 118:26; 28-29

*26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.*

*28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. 29 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*

- The crowd praised God for Jesus using Old Testament terminology.
- They didn't understand fully, however they saw the acts and miracles Jesus did and they knew He was from God.

### John 12:14-15

*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!"*

### Zechariah 9:9

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

- This was one of the many prophecies that God had given in the Old Testament to identify who the Messiah would be.
- These things are/were a sign that God was about to do something BIG!

## The Passover Lamb

### 1 Corinthians 5:6-9

*6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Ultimately, the Passover looked forward to the time when the Lord would eternally save His people from judgment. We are saved from God's wrath by the sacrifice of Jesus, just as the Israelites were saved by the sacrifice of the lamb.

- We remember Palm Sunday every year as the start of Holy Week. Just the same as Old Testament Jews celebrated the beginning of the Passover celebration.
- Jesus enters Jerusalem on the 10th day of the first month, the first day the Passover celebration.

## Important symbolic picture

- The Old Testament sacrifices were to show us the real cost Sin has and the way that God offers redemption and reconciliation throughout the blood of a substitute.
- The Passover celebration is one of these pictures God uses to teach us about what he wants to do.
- These things were to point to Jesus and to help us understand what Jesus is doing on the Cross.

- It is impossible to be saved by anything other than the sacrifice of Jesus. (One Lamb per house.)

### Acts 4:12

*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

- Jesus was a perfect Sacrifice. (without blemish)

### Hebrews 4:15

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

This has always been God's plan to save the world from sin and death.

### John 3:16-18

*16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

# Discussion Questions

- In your own words what is the significance of Palm Sunday?
- In your own words, why did the people greet Jesus this way when He entered Jerusalem?
- Why is it important for Christians to read and study the Old Testament sacrifices even though we no longer have to do them because of Jesus?
- Why do you think Christians remember and celebrate Palm Sunday every year?
- Why is it important to connect Jesus with Old Testament sacrifices and prophecies?
  - What does that connection teach you about God and His character?
- Re-read John 3:16-18
  - What is God's plan for the world?
  - In your own words, how can we be a part of that plan?
  - How do you think you should respond to God's plan for the world?
    - (Do you need to make a decision today? Is there someone you should tell about Jesus but haven't yet? Is there something you need to change about your life?)