



COVENANT CHURCH

Palm Sunday 2020

Pastor Stephen Hayes

April 5, 2020

Main Idea – Just as Jesus led the way to the cross as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, He will lead you through your life. Your life will be one of purpose, and one to celebrate, as was Jesus' life on earth.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

- Each of the Gospels tells of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday – **Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-15.**
- The crowd was huge and filled with a diversity of people: some who hated Him, some who loved Him, and many who were simply curious or misunderstood Him.
- However, no one except Jesus knew what was really happening. Jesus was the only one who knew the significance of the events that would follow during the next week.
- In the same way, Jesus will lead you through your life even though you don't know what will happen next.
- Jesus has already been where you are going.

Follow Jesus to wisdom, understanding, and knowledge

- Jesus knows the path your life is going to take when you follow Him because He has already established it.
- **Proverbs 24:3-4** – Through *wisdom* a house is built, and by *understanding* it is established; by *knowledge* the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. (NKJV)
- You will receive wisdom when you follow Jesus. Wisdom will enable you to know where you are headed.
- You will develop understanding when you follow Jesus. Understanding shows you what to do with the details of your life – how to allocate your time and resources.
- You will use knowledge gained from following Jesus to share Him with others, and to help others as they live their lives.
- Faith is thanking God in advance for what you know He is going to do.

Jesus lived His earthly life with compassion and purpose

- There are two references in the Bible to Jesus crying.
- **John 11:35** – **Jesus wept.** In this story in John 11 Jesus showed compassion when

hearing about the death of his friend Lazarus.

- **Luke 19:41** – **Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, (NKJV).** Jesus demonstrated compassion in this verse. However, He also exhibited sorrow because the people of Jerusalem were going to reject Him and miss their chance at truly knowing Him. Jesus knew His purpose and was sad many would not take advantage of the opportunity to be part of that purpose.

Jesus sacrificed His life so your life could have a purpose

- You are living at this moment in history for a reason. God has a reason for you to be here right now. **Esther 4:14** – **“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (NKJV)**
- Jesus is knocking on the door of your life, giving you the opportunity to let Him in. **Revelation 3:20** – **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (NKJV)**
- You can let Jesus into your life – or rededicate your life to following Him – by simply stating out loud that He is Lord, and acknowledging in your heart that God the Father raised Him on the third day after He was crucified (Easter Sunday). **Romans 10:9-10** – **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJV)**
- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, He was following the Father’s plan for him that had already been declared.
- God has a plan for your life. Accept Jesus as your Savior, and then follow the Holy Spirit as He leads you on your life’s path of purpose.
- **Malachi 3:10** – **“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (NKJV)**

Reflective Questions for Palm Sunday 2020

1. Pastor Stephen said there were all kinds of people in the crowd when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. What is the significance of that

diversity of people when it comes to the crucifixion and resurrection that would follow?

2. Proverbs 24:3-4 (above) seems to indicate there is a process to following God; that spiritual maturity does not necessarily happen all at once. If you are already a believer in Jesus, can you briefly summarize what has been your experience on your path to spiritual maturity? If you have just recently accepted Jesus, what has changed in your understanding and perception of life's meaning?
3. If you are a Christian, describe the range of emotions you sometimes feel in the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. How does that mix of emotions explain what it means to have faith in Jesus?