

Palm Sunday 2024

C.R. 3-24-24

“The Power of Praise”

Text: Luke 19: 28-40

Intro: Palm Sunday. A day that for us is ripe with anticipation of the next week. Resurrection Sunday. It was a day that had to be very interesting for those watching in Jerusalem.

As Jesus came to this last, critical week before the crucifixion, He carefully and deliberately sent His disciples to make arrangements for His arrival into Jerusalem. Jesus had been to Jerusalem many times before; but there was something very special about this journey to Jerusalem.

On most journeys he entered quietly and discreetly, but not this time. He entered with a band of people from all walks of life. The idea of a victorious, conquering king entering a city was well known in that time. Typically, a victorious king came into a city escorted by the citizens of his kingdom and his army. As he entered, songs were sung in praise and acclamation of the conqueror, and he came with symbols of his victory and authority. Finally, he came into the city's prominent temple and made a sacrificial offering to honor the gods and associate himself with them.

The only symbols of His power were a humble donkey and palm branches. Upon entering the city, He did not offer sacrifices, but He challenged the religious status quo and cleansed the temple.

What a day this must have been for sure, but a day that He had arranged. We can learn a few things from this day, and I hope that we will this morning. I have meditated on this scripture for a while now and there are some very clear things that God has shown me.

1) He is King No Matter What.

- a. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad that He is King. I am thankful this morning to know that I am a child of the King.

- b. Not everyone feels this way. They don't think he is a King. Many don't want Him to be the King, but He is.
- c. He is King no matter what situation we are in or what we face. He is King.
- d. He is King of creation. Ask the colt. Ask the palm branches. Ask the stones.
- e. Ask Lazarus. Ask Mary Magdalene. Ask the blind man. Ask the lepers. Ask the man by the pool.
- f. This motley group were laying there clothes in the path of the King, rejoicing loudly.
- g. He was King in eternity past. He was King before creation. He was King in the cradle. He was King on the cross. He Was King in the grave, and for sure King when he walked out of the grave.

2) He is Worthy of Praise No Matter What.

- a. The crowd's praise made Jesus' enemies uncomfortable; it made them object to the praise being offered. It made them know they were being defeated. John 12:19 says that on this day, The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"
- b. **Guzik:** Nothing tells Satan and his followers that they have lost like the praises of God ringing in their ears. Satan loses because when God's people are really worshipping, their hearts and minds are on Him — and not on sin, self, or Satan's distractions.
- c. **Read Psalm 150**
- d. Praising God is not just about reciting words or singing songs. It is something that should come from the heart, with a genuine desire to honor God. The Scriptures encourage believers to praise God continually, in both good times and bad. In Psalm 34:1, it says, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."
- e. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).
- f. Worship is commonly defined as the expression of reverence and adoration towards a deity. Praise, on the other hand, is an expression of approval or admiration.
- g. Revelation 4-5 describes an epic scene of worship in heaven. John's vision reveals a worship service in heaven where the living

creatures, the elders, and the angels fall down before the throne of God to worship Him. They sing a new song, saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- h. Palm Sunday proves that Jesus loves when we praise Him. It is the right thing to do.
- i. Yet the stones stayed silent on that day, because all the multitude praised Jesus: the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice. "And yet, I suppose, those disciples had their trials as we have ours. There might have been a sick wife at home, or a child withering with disease." (Spurgeon) Yet they all praised Him!
- j. Note: They praised Him for all the mighty works that they had seen.
- k. If He never did another thing for us, He has already done enough to praise Him forever.
- l. **Guzik:** *A great indictment against much of our praise is that it is mindless. We do not have anything specific in our minds that we praise God for, things that we have seen Him do in our lives. Anyone who says, "Praise the Lord!" should be able to answer this question: "Praise Him for what?"*
- m. **Illustrate:** *A body is not crippled 'til its heart has ceased to praise. Louis Albert Banks tells of an elderly Christian man, a fine singer, who learned that he had cancer of the tongue and that surgery was required. In the hospital after everything was ready for the operation, the man said to the doctor, "Are you sure I will never sing again?" The surgeon found it difficult to answer his question. He simply shook his head no. The patient then asked if he could sit up for a moment. "I've had many good times singing the praises of God," he said. "And now you tell me I can never sing again. I have one song that will be my last. It will be of gratitude and praise to God." There in the doctor's presence the man sang softly the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, "I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,/ And when my voice is lost in death,/ Praise shall employ my nobler power;/ My days of praise shall ne'er be past,/ While life, and thought, and being last,/ Or immortality endures."*