

# **Bible Study Guide: Palm Sunday – From Expectation to Transformation**

 Source Transcript:

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## **Big Idea**

**Palm Sunday confronts us with a choice: follow Jesus based on expectations and emotions, or surrender fully and allow Him to transform our hearts.**

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## **Theme**

**Jesus enters as a humble King, not to fix circumstances but to transform lives—calling us from emotional faith to daily, surrendered discipleship.**

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## **Core Scriptures**

### **Matthew 21:1–11**

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

### **Matthew 16:23**

“You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

## **Romans 12:2**

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

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### **Introduction: Understanding Holy Week**

Holy Week is a movement:

- Palm Sunday → Celebration
- Maundy Thursday → Command to love
- Good Friday → Sacrifice
- Easter → Resurrection

### **Key Insight:**

“Holy Week is a time to reset and refocus your walk with God.”

### **The Challenge**

Many believers:

- Start strong
- Lose focus
- Need to reset

### **The Opportunity**

Palm Sunday invites us to:

- Reevaluate our faith

- Recommit to Christ
  - Prepare our hearts
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## **Main Point 1: The Tension Between Surrender and Control**

### **Explanation**

We constantly move between:

- Trusting God
- Taking control back

“There is a constant vacillation between surrender and control.”

### **Biblical Example**

Peter:

- Declares Jesus as Lord
- Then resists God’s plan

### **Spiritual Truth**

Faith requires:

- Daily surrender
- Letting go of control

### **Application**

- Where am I holding onto control?
- What would surrender look like today?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Faith grows when control decreases.”

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## **Main Point 2: Jesus Models Humble Leadership**

### **Explanation**

Jesus enters Jerusalem:

- On a donkey
- Not a war horse

### **Spiritual Insight**

True leadership:

- Is not prideful
- Is not forceful
- Is humble and intentional

“Lead out of humility and love—not pride or ego.”

### **Application**

- How am I leading in my home or work?
- Am I leading with humility or ego?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Real strength is quiet, confident, and rooted in God.”

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## **Main Point 3: Emotional Faith vs. Covenant Faith**

### **Explanation**

Palm Sunday crowd:

- Shouts “Hosanna”
- Days later: “Crucify Him”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Emotional faith:

- Is inconsistent
- Depends on circumstances

Covenant faith:

- Is steady
- Remains in hardship

“Emotional faith will always fluctuate.”

### **Application**

- Is my faith emotional or committed?
- Do I follow Jesus when it’s hard?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Don’t be a Sunday fan—be a daily follower.”

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## **Main Point 4: The Danger of Complacency**

### **Explanation**

Not denying Jesus outright...

But staying silent

“Complacency is a form of denial.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Silence:

- Avoids discomfort
- Protects self
- Weakens faith

### **Application**

- Where am I staying silent about my faith?
- What is fear keeping me from doing?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Silence can be just as dangerous as denial.”

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## **Main Point 5: What We Want vs. What We Need**

## **Explanation**

The crowd wanted:

- A political savior

Jesus brought:

- A suffering Savior

“We want a fix—God wants transformation.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

We often seek:

- Comfort
- Quick solutions

God offers:

- Heart transformation

## **Application**

- Am I asking Jesus to fix things—or change me?
- What deeper work is God doing in my life?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Transformation is better than temporary relief.”

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**Main Point 6: Jesus Transforms from the Inside Out**

## **Explanation**

Jesus prioritizes:

- Forgiveness of sin
- Heart change

Before:

- Physical healing

## **Spiritual Truth**

When the heart changes:

- Life changes
- Perspective changes
- Behavior changes

“When the heart is transformed, everything changes.”

## **Application**

- Is my focus external or internal?
- What needs to change in my heart?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Changed hearts lead to changed lives.”

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**Main Point 7: The Illusion of “Fixes”**

## **Explanation**

We rely on:

- Temporary comforts
- Quick solutions

Examples:

- Food
- Shopping
- Escapes

## **Spiritual Truth**

Fixes:

- Are temporary
- Do not satisfy

“Fixes will always disappoint.”

## **Application**

- What “fixes” do I turn to?
- How can I turn to God instead?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Temporary fixes can’t replace eternal transformation.”

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**Main Point 8: True Strength is Found in Surrender**

## **Explanation**

Real strength is:

- Not dominance
- Not control

It is:

- Surrender
- Trust
- Dependence on God

“Real men surrender control and allow God to reshape them.”

## **Application**

- What area requires surrender today?
- What am I trying to control?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Surrender is strength—not weakness.”

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## **Main Point 9: What Are You “Riding In On”?**

### **Explanation**

Jesus rides in:

- With humility

We often ride in:

- With pride
- Ego
- Control

## **Spiritual Reflection**

Your “ride” represents:

- Your attitude
- Your leadership
- Your identity

“What are you riding in on?”

## **Application**

- How do I present myself to others?
- What drives my actions?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Your posture reveals your heart.”

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## **Main Point 10: Laying Down More Than Palm Branches**

### **Explanation**

The crowd lays down:

- Cloaks
- Palm branches

But true followers lay down:

- Pride
- Control
- Plans
- Rights

“Lay down your life—not just your praise.”

## **Spiritual Truth**

Following Jesus requires:

- Full surrender
- Total commitment

## **Application**

- What do I need to lay down?
- Am I fully surrendered?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“True worship is surrender, not just celebration.”

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. Where do you struggle between surrender and control?
  2. Is your faith emotional or committed?
  3. What “fixes” do you rely on instead of God?
  4. How are you leading in your relationships?
  5. What do you need to lay down before Jesus?
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## **Practical Application Steps**

### **1. Reset Your Focus**

- Take time to reconnect with God

### **2. Practice Daily Surrender**

- Start each day with “Your will be done”

### **3. Lead with Humility**

- Choose love over pride

### **4. Replace Fixes with Faith**

- Turn to God instead of temporary solutions

### **5. Live as a Daily Follower**

- Commit beyond Sunday
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## **Closing Prayer**

Father,

Help us to move from emotional faith  
to committed, daily discipleship.

Teach us to surrender control,  
to lead with humility,  
and to trust You fully.

Transform our hearts  
so that we may live for You  
in every moment.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **Final Takeaway**

**Palm Sunday is not just about praising Jesus—it's about choosing to follow Him daily with a surrendered and transformed heart.**