

## **Palm Sunday to Resurrection: A 5-Day Journey**

### **Day 1: The King Who Rides in Humility      Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:1-11**

**Devotional:** Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a warhorse but on a borrowed donkey—a deliberate choice that reveals the heart of God's kingdom. While earthly powers parade their strength, our King demonstrates that true authority flows through humility. The Messiah prophesied for centuries arrived exactly as promised: gentle, lowly, accessible. This challenges our expectations of power and success. We often want a Jesus who will overthrow our circumstances, fix our problems, and validate our plans. But He came for something far greater—to overthrow sin and death itself. Today, ask yourself: Am I seeking a convenient Savior or surrendering to the true King? Humility isn't weakness; it's the pathway to eternal victory.

### **Day 2: When Worship Becomes Conditional      Reading: Luke 19:28-44; Mark 15:6-15**

**Devotional:** "Hosanna!" on Sunday. "Crucify Him!" on Friday. The same voices. The same crowd. Their worship was conditional—based on what Jesus could do for them, not who He truly was. This ancient fickleness mirrors our modern "cancel culture," where heroes become villains overnight when they fail to meet our expectations. It's easy to follow Jesus when life feels like a parade, when blessings flow and prayers are answered quickly. But what happens when following Him leads through disappointment, suffering, or sacrifice? Fair-weather faith crumbles under pressure. True discipleship costs everything. Examine your heart today: Do you love Jesus for His gifts or for Himself? Will you stand with Him when the crowd turns away?

### **Day 3: Creation's Testimony to the Creator      Reading: Luke 19:37-40; Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-6**

**Devotional:** When religious leaders demanded Jesus silence the praising crowd, He declared that if people stayed quiet, the very stones would cry out. This profound statement reveals a stunning truth: all creation recognizes its Creator, even when humanity refuses to. The mountains, trees, and stones bear witness to God's glory. The sunrise declares His faithfulness. The stars proclaim His majesty. Nature cannot help but worship—it was designed for this purpose. Yet we, made in God's image with the capacity for conscious worship, often remain silent or distracted. God's redemptive plan is unstoppable; it doesn't depend on human cooperation, though He invites our participation. Today, let creation inspire your worship. Don't let rocks outdo you in praising your King.

### **Day 4: The Doorway to Redemption      Reading: John 12:12-19, 23-33; Isaiah 53:1-12**

**Devotional:** Palm Sunday wasn't the destination—it was the doorway. Jesus rode toward Jerusalem knowing exactly what awaited Him: betrayal, mockery, torture, and crucifixion. The crowd expected a political liberator; Jesus came as a substitutionary sacrifice. His "triumphal entry" was triumph of a different kind—not over Rome, but over the grave. The palms would wither, the cheers would fade, but the cross would stand forever as the ultimate demonstration of love. Jesus didn't come to make bad people good; He came to make dead people alive. The parade route led directly to Calvary because that was always the plan. Redemption required blood. Salvation demanded death. As you walk through Holy Week, remember: the cross wasn't Plan B. It was always God's rescue mission for humanity.

### **Day 5: Laying Down More Than Branches      Reading: Mark 8:34-38; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 9:23-25**

**Devotional:** The crowd laid down palm branches and cloaks—temporary gestures of honor that cost them little. Jesus calls us to something far more radical: "Take up your cross daily and follow Me." This isn't about waving branches on Sunday; it's about laying down your entire life as a living sacrifice. It means surrendering your plans, your reputation, your comfort, and your control. It means following Jesus not just when it's popular, but especially when it's costly. The question Palm Sunday ultimately asks is deeply personal: Who is Jesus to you? A convenient problem-solver you invoke when needed? Or the Lord of your life who transforms your soul from the inside out? Today, identify one area where you've been holding back from full surrender. Lay it down at His feet. True discipleship begins where self-interest ends.