

04/10/22 Message

Part of Out of Series

April 9, 2022

Message: Palm Sunday

Series: Easter 2022

Welcome to FCC as we celebrate the Easter season together! Easter is special not because of worldly celebrations; it's special because the week between Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and His death, burial, and resurrection – affectionally known as Passion Week! Today, we remember Jesus' final week before being convicted, sentenced, and executed. Today, we remember Jesus' victory, not His defeat, because He was defeated as a sinner (He took on the sins of the world) – but He arose a winner (defeating death, hell, and the grave).

Introduction

Passion week occurred around 33AD, the season was Spring. Jerusalem was preparing for the national holiday known as Passover. Passover comes from the events found in Exodus 12 where the plague of death was going to strike every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. God gave these instructions to the Israelites – sacrifice a lamb and spread its blood on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses. God said the blood would be a sign and He would pass over and the Israelites would be safe from this plague of death.

In Exodus 12:14 God said – this is a day to remember – each year from generation to generation, celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord.

Jesus was preparing to enter Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

Luke 19:28-35 (NLT)

28 ... Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples.
29 As they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead.

30 “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

31 If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said.

33 And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?”

34 And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

Zechariah 9:9 (written about 550 years before, said this...)

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet He is humble, riding on a donkey – riding on a donkey’s colt.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to...

- Fulfill PROPHECY
- Foreshadow SACRIFICE

Jerusalem Rejoiced

Luke 19:36-38 (NLT)

36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him.

37 When they reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

38 “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

Matthew and Mark tell how the people would spread palm branches on the road. Palm branches were a sign of victory. They would sing Hosanna, a word that was only used 6 times in the NT and it was only used on this day when Jesus was riding into Jerusalem... it means ‘save now’ or ‘please save’... In the OT, the Hebrew word was more like what you would yell out if you jumped in a lake

and couldn't swim - save me, save me! But in NT Greek, it was more of a praise instead of a cry for help and it was more like they were shouting out hooray for salvation... salvation is here!

—Pastor Chad

Psalm 118:25-26 (NLT)

25 Please, LORD, please save us. Please, LORD, please give us success.

26 Bless the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Jerusalem Condemned

Luke 19:39-40 (NLT)

39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

40 He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

Jesus continues to the Passover...

Luke 19:41-44 (NLT)

41 But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep.

42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.

43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side.

44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation."

No matter where Jesus looked, He found cause for weeping. If He looked back, He saw how the nation had wasted its opportunities and been ignorant of their time with Him. If He looked within the people, He saw spiritual ignorance and blindness in the hearts of the people. They should have known who He was, for God had given them His Word and sent messengers to prepare the way. As He looked around, He saw religious activity

that accomplished very little. The temple had become a den of thieves, and the religious leaders were out to kill Him. The city was filled with pilgrims celebrating a festival, but the hearts of the people were heavy with sin and life's burdens. As Jesus looked ahead, He wept as He saw the terrible judgment that was coming to the nation, the city, and the temple. Why did all of this happen?

Because the people did not realize God had visited them!

—Warren Wiersbe

John 1:11 (NLT)

He came to his own people, and even they rejected Him.

Luke 19:14 (NLT)

But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, "We do not want him to be our king."

Jesus wept, audibly – wailing over Jerusalem's rejection (over their sin).

Consequences of Rejecting Jesus

Luke 19:44 shares when you reject Jesus, the enemy crushes you into the ground. And if you have family, v44 also says your children are crushed too! Rejecting Jesus is a generational curse that continues from generation to generation.

Jesus Finished His Journey

But there's good news this morning. Regardless of what bondage holds you back. Regardless of how much you feel crushed right now by the enemy... The story goes on... and it says – that Jesus finished His journey into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday.

—Pastor Chad

Because Jesus continued to Jerusalem – because of his faithfulness to fulfill the will of His Father – because of His sacrifice for us – we have Easter to celebrate! We don't celebrate his death; we celebrate his sacrifice! We celebrate his life! We celebrate defeat of anything and everything that can come against us, because in this one historical event – Jesus conquered – Jesus won!

Isn't it amazing that when God looks at you - He doesn't see a mistake... He doesn't see a failure... He doesn't see your sin... once you turn your life over to Him completely - in that moment - you are covering yourself with sacrificial blood - and just like the Israelites were covered by the blood of the lamb... you can be covered by the blood of the Lamb! It saved them... and it will save you! Ask Jesus to save you today!

—Pastor Chad