

“ADJ - Cross, Sin, & Repentance Part 1” (4-10-22)

Introduction: The significance of Palm Sunday - we must understand the nature of sin & our great need!

Sin's Nature: Let's observe the story of original sin to see how it progressively moves into our lives

1) **Unbelief** - sin starts by drawing us into unbelief

Genesis 3:1 (ESV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

Note: Sin always starts with a lie - because the primary goal is to instill unbelief

Questioning what God said by twisting it - it's an attack on His character (distorting & distrusting Him)

Genesis 3:2-3 (ESV)

(2) And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, (3) but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Note: If the first mistake was entertaining the lie, the next mistake was adding to the truth!

Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Note: only thing he said was do not eat - we added do not touch! One of the lies of sin is that God is a withholder - when all was shared but one thing! (that we may choose love instead)

This all culminates in the final lie . . .

Genesis 3:4 (ESV)

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

Note: This is how temptation works - we flirt around with it, until the sin looks more appealing than the reasons not to sin!

- So what does **Palm Sunday** have to do with this?
- It's an example of how Jesus longs to reveal himself to us - replacing Unbelief with Faith!

Luke 19:41-42 (ESV)

(41) And when (Jesus) drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (42) saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Note: We often think of biblical faith as blind faith, but that simple isn't true!

It's having a revelation of Jesus and trusting in who he really is!

Example: Jesus w/ “doubting” Thomas after resurrection

Palm Sunday was such a specific fulfillment of prophecy - it should have instilled massive belief at the arrival of the long promised King!

Daniel 9 prophecy - The day of Jesus' arrival was predicted over 500 years in advance!*

Daniel 9:25 (NKJV)

"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks"

Note: 69 Weeks = 69 - 7 year periods (Jewish calendar is 360 days). So: $69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$ days

- Nehemiah received this **command 100 years later** from King Artaxerxes on **March 14th, 445 BC**
- If we count forward 173,880 days from **March 14th, 445 BC** we arrive at **April 6th, 32 AD . . .**
- The Sunday before the Passover when Jesus was killed was **April 6th, 32 AD** - The very day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was worshipped as King. Exactly 173,880 days after the decree of Artaxerxes - the day we now refer to as Palm Sunday!

*(For complete notes on this prophecy, see additional notes section at the end of these sermon notes)

Application: For the antidote to unbelief, we need a **Revelation** of Jesus - see Him for who He really is!

And that leads us to our next point . . .

2) **Pride** - unbelief culminates in pride (putting myself as judge, king, & god of my life)

Genesis 3:4-5 (ESV)

(4) But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Note: The ultimate lie - you will be like God. This appeals to our pride: I'm in charge of my life, I call the shots!

Genesis 3:6a (ESV)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise . . .

Note: She entertained the idea and it appealed to her! In fact it appealed to all 3 main entry points of sin: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life . . .

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

(15) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Note: Pride always destroys love, and in turn it destroys us!

Consider: your other relationships. Where does pride grow healthy friendships & marriages?

And the consequences of pride are this . . .

Genesis 3:7-8 (ESV)

(7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Note: Pride leads to covering & hiding - we stop being real & we pull away from those who love us!

- So how is **Palm Sunday** an answer to **pride**?

Jesus arrival to Jerusalem started in a seemingly unusual way - Jesus asked his disciples to find him a donkey to ride. They only connected the dots later as to why . . .

Matthew 21:4-5 (ESV)

(4) This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, (5) “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

Note: The promised King - is a Humble King (this quotes Zechariah 9:9)

- In answer to our pride - comes our humble king
- And we can now choose to respond as his disciples did . . .

Matthew 21:6-7 (ESV)

(6) The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them.

Note: They obeyed the King!

Matthew 21:8-9 (ESV)

(8) Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. (9) And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Note: They worshipped the King! More specifically, cried out for help (hosanna), acknowledging their need!

- **Obedience** & **Worship** require humility. And notice what the people laid down before their king . . .
- **Tree Branches & Clothes** - the very things used to cover Adam & Eve (once their pride exposed them).
- Now we can willingly lay these down in the presence of our humble king!

Consider:

- Where man strived to become like God in the garden (and we’ve been doing it ever since)
- God becomes like us - to extend his love, soften our prideful hearts, and bring us back where we belong!

Application: For the antidote to pride, we need a **Revolution** in our kingdom - bowing to the Humble King!

3) Disobedience - unbelief & pride culminate in disobedience (a rejection of God & His rule)

Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Note: It’s amazing how sin always looks for company - we influence each other away from God.

Sadly this has been the trend on down through the generations - we normalize our rule over God’s rule.

We normalize unbelief & pride - in fact we encourage it!

It will take something dramatic to break us free from our normalized disobedience (which is so destructive) . . .

Back to Palm Sunday . . .

Matthew 21:10-13 (ESV)

(10) And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” (11) And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.” (12) And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. (13) He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

Note: Jesus is gonna have to flip some tables to set things right!

- Jesus isn’t just angrily lashing out (other gospel accounts make it clear this was a thoughtful intentional act)
- Jesus is bothered that the temple is being mis-used - this is not about a building . . .
- We are God’s temple - we are meant to worship him alone / and sin has flipped that upside down!
- Disobedience requires a **renovation of the heart!**

Man’s disobedience in the garden created a damaging separation from God

Our ongoing unbelief, pride, & disobedience does that still in our lives today

Meanwhile - Jesus, our humble & obedient King holds the solution for us . . .

- Jesus obeyed (alone) in another garden - Gethsemane - when he submitted to God’s will
- Jesus obeyed even to the point of death on a cross

The Cross - the ultimate tree of the knowledge of good & evil

- **The solution to disobedience isn’t (primarily) our obedience, but His!**
- **Jesus invites us now to take and eat!**

Application: The antidote to disobedience is a **Renovation** of our hearts - bowing to the Humble King!

Conclusion: Friends - sin so easily creeps in through unbelief, pride, & ultimately disobedience.

May we find the help we need in Jesus . . .

- A **Revelation** which replaces unbelief with faith
- A **Revolution** that restores the humble King to his rightful place, and . . .
- A **Renovation** of our heart - that establishes a love relationship with God!

Additional Notes on the Daniel 9 / Palm Sunday Prophecy

These notes are from a sermon that Pastor Jake preached on Palm Sunday April 9, 2017. You can find the sermon audio in the archives section of our church's podcast.

Palm Sunday: "This your day" (4-9-2017)

1) Palm Sunday's amazing prophecy (Special thanks to Steve Berger, Chuck Missler, & Sir Robert Anderson, head of Scotland Yard, who wrote "The Coming Prince" in 1894)

Our story begins about 5½ Centuries prior to Palm Sunday in Daniel 9 . . .

Daniel is seeking God about the future of the Jewish people and Jerusalem. He understands from reading the prophecies of Jeremiah that Israel's 70 year Babylonian captivity is about over and he's curious about the future... so he's seeking God...about 539 BC, about 3-4 years left in 70 year Babylonian Captivity. In the middle of his prayer the angel Gabriel shows up and moves on Daniel with an **unbelievably precise, word of prophecy**.

Daniel 9:24-25

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

Notes: Let's unpack this amazing prophecy...

- 70 "weeks" are determined for Jews and Jerusalem.
- "weeks" can be "weeks of days, weeks, months or years" for Jews & is a period of 7 of any of these.
- Daniel's weeks are weeks of years — God is saying there are 70 periods of 7 years where He is going to be doing some amazing things in regards to the Jews...

With that general backdrop, now the very specific prophecy is mentioned...

Daniel 9:25

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times."

Notes: From command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **UNTIL** Messiah the prince comes... **very specific prophecy about when the Messiah would be recognized and worshipped on the world stage . . .**

Slide on Daniel 9 Prophecy

- 7 weeks and 62 weeks (or 69 weeks), so 69 periods of 7 years from the time the command went out to rebuild and restore Jerusalem.
- $69 \times 7 = 483$ years \times 360 day ancient calendar is **173,880 days** from command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **UNTIL** Messiah comes.
- Nehemiah received that **command** about **100 years later** from King Artaxerxes on **March 14th, 445 BC**
- If we count forward 173,880 days from **March 14th, 445 BC** we arrive at **April 6th, 32 AD** . . .
- So what happened that day?

Daniel 9 and the arrival of the Messiah

- In Luke 3: Jesus was baptized and began his ministry in the 15th year of the reign of Caesar Tiberius
- Historical fact: The reign of Caesar Tiberius began with his coronation on August 19th, 14 AD
- The ministry of Jesus spanned four Passovers or about 3½ years. So the first Passover of Jesus' ministry would have been in the spring of 29 AD - 15 years into the reign of Cesar Tiberius.
- The 4th Passover of His ministry, which was the day of his crucifixion, was on April 10th, 32 AD
- The Sunday before that Passover was **April 6th, 32 AD** - The very day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was worshipped as King. Exactly 173,880 days after the decree of Artaxerxes - the day we now refer to as Palm Sunday!

Extra Notes on how we arrive at that date of March 14th, 445 BC for the command to rebuild Jerusalem

Nehemiah 2:1

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.

Artaxerxes Longimanus ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian empire in July 465 B.C. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990 ed.). Consequently, the very day of Artaxerxes' decree was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan in 445 B.C. The first day of Nisan in 445 B.C. corresponds to the 14th day of March. The prophecy states that 69 weeks of years (173,880 days using the 360 day prophetic year) after the command goes forth to restore and rebuild the city of Jerusalem the Messiah will come. If we count forward 173,880 days from March 14th 445 B.C. we arrive at April 6th 32 A.D.

Extra Notes on how we arrive at that date of April 6th, 32 AD for when the Messiah arrives

Luke 3:1 - Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter three, it states that in the 15th year of the reign of Caesar Tiberius, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and began his ministry. It is well established that the reign of Caesar Tiberius (The Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990. Micropedia) began with his coronation on August 19th in the year A.D. 14. The ministry of Jesus spanned four Passovers or about three and one half years. The first Passover of Jesus' ministry would have been in the Spring of A.D. 29. The fourth Passover of His ministry was the day of his crucifixion and would have fallen in the year A.D. 32. The Passover in that year fell on April 10th (The Passover holiday always occurs on the 14th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. This corresponds to the first full moon after the Spring equinox.). Remarkably, according to Robert Anderson and the British Royal Observatory, the Sunday before that Passover was April 6th-The very day that Jesus presents himself as King and exactly 173,880 days after the decree of Artaxerxes!!

Luke 19:37-40 (NKJV)

(37) Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, (38) saying: " 'BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (39) And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." (40) But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Notes: Jesus, the long awaited Messiah of the world entered Jerusalem on a donkey and for the first time ever He allowed Himself to be publicly recognized and worshipped as the fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah!

They had tried to take Him prior to that day and make Him King but He refused . . .

John 6:15

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

John 7:30

Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

The importance of this specific day is clearly shown in Luke 19 . . .

Luke 19:37-38

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Notes: This is a specific quote from a prophetic Psalm about the Messiah: Psalm 118:2

Luke 19:39-40

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Notes: Pharisees recognize what's being said... **Jesus states importance of the day, something so amazing that if people didn't praise, stones would.**

Luke 19:41-42

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in **this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Notes: Jesus emphasizes importance of "this your day" and the peace it was to bring them.

2) Palm Sunday's amazing invitation . . . Saying Yes to Jesus!

Don't miss your Visitation, instead practice saying yes to Him personally today . . .

Some things to consider:

a) When Jesus arrived . . .

Some questioned, Some scoffed, Some hated and wanted Him gone

But . . . His disciples worshipped!

b) What Jesus did . . .

Some wanted a military leader & King, Some wanted to use Him for their own power & gain

But . . . He came to die for our sins – not primarily to change our circumstances, but to change us!

c) Why Jesus wept . . .

Because, they missed their visitation!

So Don't miss Him in your life (big picture), and remember – This your day (it's the only one you have)

d) He is present . . .

Invite Him in to change you!

Participate in His visitation now into your Home and this City