

## Palm Sunday at Central Faith!

Sermon Notes - BK

March 24, 2024



### What do we know about Palm Sunday?

- It celebrates when **Jesus rode into Jerusalem... on a donkey.**
- **People waved palm branches** (here, it might be cedar boughs)
- **People shouted, “hosanna!”**
- **Seemed like a big party**
- **Jesus finally gets the recognition He deserves...**

### RIGHT?

Well, as you can imagine, there is a bit more than that...

- We know there was **a huge shift happening** from *what Jesus was doing*, **charging (instructing firmly) many people** like the leper who was healed (Luke 5:14), and Jairus and his wife (Luke 8:56) to **tell no one what happened.**
- **Jesus ALSO told His disciples not to say anything**, when they *understood Jesus to be the Messiah* - (Matthew 16:20; Mark 8:29-30; Luke 9:20-21)

THIS IS ALL DIFFERENT NOW...

Jesus knew NOW was the time

Let's read Luke's account of all of this...

#### **Luke 19:28-38**

***<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”***

This represented a powerful thing for the people of Israel who believed in Jesus...

- **He finally admits it in public!**
- **Jesus is finally ready to take His place!**
- **Rome is finally going to get theirs!**
- **Their Messiah was here!**

For the religious leaders who ***did NOT believe*** Jesus to be Messiah...

### WHY?

- Jesus did NOT fulfil the *right* prophecies
- *The true Messiah* would not BREAK the Law of Moses!
- Jesus was NOT the kind of Messiah they were *looking for*
- Jesus would RUIN the little bit of power they had...

The religious leaders were in a tenuous place... any interruption with the fragile balance of powers and they would be ousted and killed...

PAUSE (back to the story)

There was no mistaking what Jesus had set up –

- He rode into town on a donkey –
  - o Not a horse or in a chariot *like a warring king*
  - o He rode in on a donkey as the Prince of Peace
  - o He rode in on a “foal of a donkey” in fulfilment of Zechariah 9:9

**Zechariah 9:9**

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Jesus did this **on purpose**.

**Jesus knew the prophecy – He helped write it!**

The owner was happy to help it seems

**The people respond** with proclaiming –

*“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”*

This comes out of Psalm 118 – a Psalm taken as one that reflected the coming Messiah.

**Psalm 118:19-26**

*<sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.*

*<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.*

*<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.*

*<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.*

*<sup>23</sup>This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*<sup>25</sup>Save us, we pray, O Lord!  
O Lord, we pray, give us success!*

*<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.*

Wow – how clear is that??

THIS is likely why the Pharisees freaked out!

**Luke 19:39-40**

*<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”*

The leaders are **freaking out for themselves... trying to distance themselves from this uprising...**

*Maybe they thought Jesus was ignorant of what was going on under the surface?*

**Jesus was not ignorant** – He refers to a passage that would have *made them even more mad* I’m guessing...

**Psalm 96:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.”  
<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy*

Jesus rode into Jerusalem as many would have hoped for...

But *His mission* was **not** their mission

This is **seen clearly** in the following four verses...

**Luke 19:41-44**

*<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

THIS is worth digging into on your own.

We will not spend long here, except to say that **Jesus did not hide His heart for the people of Israel.**

His proclamation of truth was **bold, strong and unbridled** –

**BUT** – it was **not without love.**

*(THIS weeping could be translated “sobbing.”)*

Jesus was utterly sad... those who *were to see who He was as Savior and Lord*, saw Him as a threat to their power.

What would have happened, had they headed Jesus and received Him as Messiah?

*Would the destruction that came have been averted?*

Jesus prophesied five things would happen –

- The building of an **embankment**.
- The **surrounding** of the city, laying siege.
- The **destruction** of the city.
- The **killing** of the city's inhabitants.
- The complete **leveling of the city – AND the Temple**.

*Jewish historian Josephus records the Temple was destroyed by Rome in 70AD – some 37 years after the resurrection of Jesus.*

The description Jesus gave was accurate.

If you read on, you will see Jesus cleanses the Temple again.

Interestingly, when a **conquering King** would come into His city, he would **go into the temple of the most prominent god and offer sacrifice**.

Here – Jesus goes into the temple, AS the sacrifice to CLEANSE IT.

Palm Sunday

- Exciting for us still
- Reminds us that Jesus is **STILL** the

This FIRST Palm Sunday was the **STARTING** place...

Read through the accounts this week from all four Gospels.

Put your **heart and mind** into it...

**Read – Reflect – Remember – Repent – Restore**