

Beyond Expectation (Palm Sunday)

John 12:12-19; Isaiah 52; Psalm 118:25-26

vs. 12, Jesus is coming to Jerusalem

vs. 13, They took branches of palm trees, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

vs. 14, A young donkey
Jesus is not coming in the imagery of war.

vs. 15,
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.

vs. 16, Confusion

vs. 17-18, Already demonstrated power over death.

vs. 19, the world has gone after him

John 3:26 And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.”

Psalm 118:25-26 Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! **26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord.

Hosanna -> Save

This is the good news of God’s kingdom.
The King is...

- Righteous - bringing salvation
- Gentle - riding on a donkey
- Proclaiming peace - not overturning nations, but bringing peace to the nations.

Feast of Tabernacles / booths.

- Agriculturally - it is a joyous harvest festival celebrating the completion of the harvest.
- Historically - it is a reminder and celebration of God’s deliverance, protection, provision, and faithfulness.

Psalm 118 gives us insight into the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

It reflects in celebration the completion of the second Temple (Nehemiah 8:13-18).

- 586 BC taken into captivity by Babylon for 70 years.
- The children of those originally taken into captivity are now leading the effort to re-build the Temple.
- Psalm 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- Final day of the Feast of Tabernacles (the Great Hosannas) is observed.
- Part of the celebration included two designated priests pouring water and wine into the Temple altar. It recognized and celebrated God’s provision by blessing the land with rain, and for the Spirit of God to descend upon the land.

John 7:37-39 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- In addition, the people would carry torches all around the temple allowing the walls of the temple to glow brightly. Imagery that the Messiah would be a light to the Gentiles.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- This liturgy / tradition was hard wired into the Jewish people.

Isaiah 52

- vs. 6, Here I am
- vs. 7, How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good news. Peace, happiness, and salvation -> Your God reigns.
- vs. 8, The watchmen on the wall declare, The Lord has returned.
- vs. 9, Break out into singing. He brings comfort and redemption.
- vs. 10, He has bared his holy arm. (He has revealed himself).
- vs. 12, The Lord goes before you.

52:13-53

In summary, we are given a universal truth about God.

This truth is substitutionary atonement.

This atonement is effective when the recipients of the benefits gained through the sacrifice confess their guilt and recognize that one has died for them.

Justice is accomplished, not through vengeance and retribution but by allowing the death to be a means of atoning reconciliation in order to build a foundation for cooperation, peace, and salvation.

Jesus is the one bringing good news.

He has returned.

He brings comfort and redemption (through his sacrifice and death).

He has revealed himself.

He is our atonement.

In him is salvation and victory.

Jesus is the embodiment of the Holy Temple. He is the stone that the builders refused who became the head stone of the corner.

He is the fulfillment of the "Hosanna" prayers. He is the righteous gate. He has become my salvation.

Question: What have you done with the reality of Jesus? Have you embraced his salvation? Are you part of the crowd caught up in what you wish Jesus will be? Or, Do you embrace Jesus for who he actually is?

Embrace, receive, live, and overflow with the good news of Jesus.