

Imagine being in that crowd on Palm Sunday, the energy is electric, people are shouting, branches are waving, there's movement, excitement, and it feels like a turning point

Finally, the King has come. You've been waiting for this moment, you've heard the stories

And now here He is, riding into Jerusalem. So, you shout with everyone else: "**Hosanna!** Save now!"

But here's the tension... What if the crowd was celebrating the right Person...but for the wrong reason?

They saw a King coming to **take a throne**, God saw a **Lamb coming to take a cross**

They were **looking for power**, and God was **revealing sacrifice**

From the very beginning of Scripture, God had already established something: sin requires a sacrifice, and that sacrifice would be a perfect lamb

The Lamb was promised from the Beginning

The idea of a **lamb didn't begin** in the New Testament. It runs through the **entire Old Testament**

In **Genesis 22**, Abraham is told to offer Isaac. **Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?** **Genesis 22:7 NKJV**

Abraham responds: **My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.** **Genesis 22:8 NKJV**

Right there, God makes a promise. Not just any lamb. **His Lamb**

Then in **Exodus 12**, at Passover: **will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast** **Exodus 12:12 NKJV**

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. **Exodus 12:5 NKJV**

Now the blood shall be a sign for you... And when I see the blood, I will pass over you. **Exodus 12:13 NKJV**

The lamb dies... so the people live, the pattern is set

Fast forward to **John 1:29 the Lamb is identified** **John 1:29 NKJV** Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John the Baptist doesn't say: "Behold the **King**", "Behold the **Teacher**," "Behold the **Prophet**"

He says: **Behold the Lamb**

In one statement, he connects **Genesis 22**, **Exodus 12**, and every sacrifice in the temple

John says: **This is Him**, not a religion, not a denomination, not a symbol, not a system

The crowd was celebrating the right Person...but for the wrong reason?

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'"
Matthew 21:9 NIV

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" **Matthew 21:10 NIV**

The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee" **Matthew 21:11 NIV**
Hosanna – God Save Us

In their praise of Jesus, the Jewish crowds were quoting **Psalm 118**, a prophecy of Christ

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. **Psalm 118:26 NKJV**

As Jesus ascends into Jerusalem - The Lord sent two disciples ahead into the village of **Bethphage** to find an animal to ride

And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples **Luke 19:29 NKJV**

saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here" **Luke 19:30 NKJV**

The disciples responded with the answer Jesus had provided, "The Lord has need of him" **Luke 19:34 (NKJV)**

The owner is satisfied with that answer and let the disciples go as Jesus foretold

A donkey, not a warhorse in **Zechariah 9:9** fits the description of a king who would be **just**, a **gentle King**, bringing **salvation to all of mankind**

500 years before the birth of Christ. **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 NKJV**

Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him Luke 19:35 NKJV

Another Old Testament reference, the spreading of cloaks was an act of homage for royalty

They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps... 2 Kings 9:13 NIV

Most of the crowd **wanted King Jesus to lead** them in a **revolt against Rome empire**

Some in the crowd understood that Jesus was the Messiah

What they did not understand was that it **wasn't time** to set up the kingdom yet, although Jesus had tried to tell them so Luke 19:11–12

Religious leaders - YUK!

So, this praise for Jesus drew **resentment from the blind, hypocritical, religious leaders**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, Teacher, rebuke your disciples! Luke 19:39

I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out Luke 19:40

This is simply **outstanding!** Creation is depicted as having a voice

This idea is not random; it echoes in the Old Testament

The stone will cry out from the wall Habakkuk 2:11 NKJV..... **Let** the heavens rejoice... let the field be joyful Psalm 96:11–12 NKJV..... **The** heavens declared the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork

Jesus is declaring my **His Kingship is unstoppable**

These **blind, hypocritical, religious leaders Pharisees**, think they can control the narrative

Jesus says, "**No, you can't silence truth. Creation itself will testify to the truth**"

Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Here is a sharp implication: We don't get to decide if Jesus is King; we only decide if we'll join the praise and worship of the King

Praise and Worship

Who is it that we worship? Who is Jesus? One of the most important questions ever

Many people call him a great moral teacher, a good person who was worthy to be imitated (both very true statements)

But, for Christians, **he is the unique Son of God, fully God and fully human**

The savior of the world, who came to take away the world's sins **John 1:29 NKJV**

Most people only take it that far

They only know the basics about what the Bible says about the life of Jesus

Jesus is the central figure of the Bible (The Scarlet Thread)

Worship in the Bible, **worship describes both a way of life and a specific activity**

The Greek word for “**worship**,” *proskuneō* (SP Proas-ka-na-ahhh), means “**to encounter God and praise Him**”

Specific acts of worship include **praising, adoring**, and expressing **reverence for God**, both in **public and in private**

In a broader sense, worship refers to an **overall lifestyle** of serving and glorifying God and reflecting His glory to others

The apostle Paul also defined worship as an all-encompassing way of life

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship Romans 12:1 ESV

Don't Miss the Lamb

The crowd is still shouting, the branches are still waving, the King is still riding in

He wasn't just a King coming to reign, He was the Lamb coming to be sacrificed.

From **Genesis 22** — God will provide Himself the Lamb.

To **Exodus 12** — the blood that saves.

To **John 1** — Behold the Lamb of God.

It's one story, One thread, One Savior

The question is no longer, “Who is He?” The question is:

What will you do with Him?

It's easy to say "Hosanna" on Sunday. It's harder to say "**Lord, have my life**" on Monday

Today, Sunday, March 29th: Are you following Jesus... or just celebrating Him?

Jesus is still the Lamb, He is still the Savior, He is still the King

We have the same choice the crowd had: Will you just **wave the branch...** or **will you bow your life?**

Behold The Lamb Of God! That declaration still stands

Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 NKJV

So don't just wave branches, or just celebrate the moment, or even say that was a good service

Right here and right now, you can say, "**behold the lamb of God**"

Because the Lamb was given...

Receive the Lamb, The Perfect Lamb