

Sermon Outline
Sermon Text: John 12:13; Luke 19:36-37
Sermon Title: Why Honor Jesus as King on Palm Sunday?

John 12:13 ¹³ *They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “**Hosanna!**” “**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**” “**Blessed is the king of Israel!**”* (NIV)

Luke 19:36-37 says, ³⁶ *As he went along, people **spread their cloaks on the road.*** ³⁷ *When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples **began joyfully to praise God in loud voices** for all the miracles they had seen.”* (NIV)

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. Palm Sunday commemorates the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem days before His crucifixion.

WHY HONOR JESUS AS KING ON PALM SUNDAY?

1. BECAUSE JESUS IS ALL KNOWING.

Luke 19:28-31 ²⁸ *After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.* ²⁹ *As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘**The Lord needs it.**’”* (NIV) How did He know that the colt or donkey would be there? We honor Him as King because He is God in-person. He is all knowing. He knows the Past, the Present and the Future.

2. BECAUSE JESUS IS BRAVE

Why is Jesus going to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday so significant?

a. On many other occasions in New Testament, we find Jesus leaving Jerusalem because of the dangers, He faced there. The world powers did not like the idea of Jesus message of Redemption. That is why most of Jesus' ministry was in the area of Galilee.

b. But on this occasion it was especially difficult. Jesus knew what He was about to face in Jerusalem. He knew He was about to be tortured. Yet JESUS CAME ANYWAY! It was Love last appeal.

3. BECAUSE OF THE WAY JESUS ENTERED INTO JERUSALEM.

a. To add to the difficulty, Jesus enters into Jerusalem in a way He had never done before. **How would the people of Israel react to His Jesus Entry?**

1. Just a short time before Palm Sunday, Jesus had performed His greatest miracle, the raising of His friend Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:38-44)

2. So, the latest buzz in the city of Jerusalem was the talk of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

a. There was an electricity in the air. Jesus was the topic of conversation. To add to all of that, it was **Passover time**. Passover is the greatest and most celebrated event on the Jewish Calendar. Passover was the biggest festival for the Jewish people. It was a time of commemoration for God delivering his people Israel out of 400 years of Slavery out of Egypt out of the hands of Pharaoh. The city was jammed with pilgrims from all over the region.

b. **BUT this Passover was different.** Jesus entered Jerusalem in a way that would focus the whole city on **His arrival**. There are people everywhere and most of them are talking about Jesus. His critics and his fans.

b. But on this trip to Jerusalem, Jesus was going to make a very **public declaration** of who He was. Luke 19:35 ³⁵ *They brought it (colt/donkey) to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and **put Jesus on it.*** (NIV) **Why is colt/donkey significant?**

1. In Ancient Culture and Tradition during **times of war**, a King would always ride a **stallion or horse**. Indicating a warrior King mentality.

2. And in **times of peace**, a king would ride a **colt or donkey**. For Jesus to ride into Jerusalem on **a colt/donkey**, not on **a horse** was a **peaceful declaration** of who He was as **a King**.

3. The prophecy often quoted as having been fulfilled by the Triumphal Entry is Zechariah 9:9-10 *“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.”*¹⁰ *I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”*

He came to bring peace.

4. BECAUSE JESUS IS WORTHY OF ALL THE PRAISE

a. All of these people had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem that day. **Finally, Jesus arrives.** John 12:13a ¹³ *They took **palm branches** and went out to meet him...* (NIV)

1. They cut down **Palm branches** in anticipation of His arrival. It was a common custom in many lands in the ancient Middle East to cover, in some way, the path of someone thought worthy of the highest honor with **branches and leaves**. We see the usage of Palm branches in Leviticus 23:40 - Feast of Tabernacles, and Revelation 7:9 *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding **palm branches** in their hands.”* (NIV)

2. **The palm branch** was a **symbol of triumph and victory**. **Palm branches** was used for Military generals who would come home after winning a war riding on **stallion or horse**, but Jesus intentionally picks **a very crowded visible event** to come riding on a **lowly donkey** as to send a message. A message many didn’t understand. He knew this would get him in trouble but also it was already late. The time of His crucifixion and resurrection was upon him in order to fulfill prophecy.

b. They not only cut down Palm branches to go out to meet Jesus. But the rest of John 12:13 says ¹³ *They took palm branches and went out to meet him, **shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”*** (NIV)

1. The people are waving their Palm branches and **“Shouting, Hosanna!” “Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the Name of the Lord.”**

2. The word **“Hosanna”** in Hebrew means **“Save now!** ” And the shout of the people was almost precisely: **“God save the King!** The words with which the people greeted Jesus are **conquering words**. **Many of them was thinking surely this is their King!**

c. They not only cut down Palm Branches, shouted **Hosanna!** “Blessed is the King of Israel but Luke 19:36-37 says, ³⁶ *As he went along, people **spread their cloaks on the road.**”* (NIV)

Laying down their cloaks or garments on the streets as Jesus went by was as **a sign of reverence to a King**.

d. They not only laid down Palm Branches, Shouted **Hosanna!** “Blessed is the King of Israel”, laid down their cloaks and garments as He passed by but Luke 19:37-40 says ³⁷ *When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples **began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles** they had seen.* ³⁸ *“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”* ³⁹ ***Some of the Pharisees** in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, **rebuke your disciples!**”* ⁴⁰ *“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, **the stones will cry out.**”* (NIV) They joyfully Praise God with **loud voices** for all the miracles.

e. Even if some of them was Praising Him for the wrong reason, you can't really fault them for Praising Him. Jesus deserved all the Praise. Who else up to this point in Human History has done what He had done and said what He had said? Who else have walked on water, opened Blinded Eyes, brought the dead back to Life like Lazarus, has caused the deaf to Hear, and the **mute to talk**. So, He Deserved all the Praise

5. BECAUSE JESUS SEES

Luke 19:41a. ⁴¹ *As he approached Jerusalem and **saw the city**....* (NIV)

a. Jesus sees the **outward appearance**. Jesus saw the outward scenery of the City of Jerusalem. He looked at Beautiful Jerusalem, and its breathtaking view. Jesus sees Jerusalem just like he sees our cities filled with skyscrapers and modern design.

b. Jesus sees on this day at Passover the pomp and pageantry of the festival. Just like He sees the splendor and awe of our religious worship and programs

c. But Jesus saw beyond the **outward appearance of things**. He saw beyond the façade of that city and the people. Man looks **outwardly**, but God **looks inside**.... Jesus also **sees the inward appearance** of things and people.

1. He sees beyond the outward in a church...I know your deeds (Revelation 2:2) He knows what **goes on in His Church**...and **what does not** also.

2. He sees beyond the outward **in our lives**. He sees:

a. The facade or cover up that **hide inward sin**.

b. The smile that hides **inward tears**.

c. The face that hides **inward pain**.

6. BECAUSE JESUS WEPT

Luke 19:41⁴¹ *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, **he wept over it*** (NIV)

a. He saw beyond the **outward** appearance...and He sees the Inward of Man. And what He sees makes **Him weep**...

b. **Why do Jesus WEEP?**

1. **One, They misunderstood His Entry into Jerusalem**. He wept because the people did not understand the significance of what was going on that day. They did not understand who **He was** nor why He came to this earth.

a. They thought that Jesus was coming to rescue them from their oppressors. They also thought that Jesus would rescue them from Rome. Those brutal dictators.

b. They expected Jesus to become the **physical king** of Israel and restore her back to her glory days....as it had been under King David. When Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a colt, the people understood it to mean that Jesus was claiming to **be a conquering King**, a war lord, who would come in and crush Rome. **That is why most of them were waving Palm Branches and shouting Hosanna**. Jesus **was not riding a horse** as a King of War would do but He was riding a colt/donkey the **symbol of peace**. Jesus had come to Jerusalem, not with a **political message**, but with a **spiritual message**.

2. **Two, Because Jesus sees the spiritual condition of the city and its people**. He saw their hypocrisy; he saw their sins and hatred for him. He weeps because:

a. We **reject Him**, and accept the way of the devil.

b. We would rather live **for self**, than live for Him.

3. **Three, Jesus sees their Full Potential.**

Luke 19:42a “⁴²How I wish today that you of all people **would understand**....”(NLT)

a. Jesus was weeping because the people had missed an opportunity **to change their future**. They missed an opportunity for Salvation.

b. They were too caught up in the realm of the **physical** to be concerned about **the spiritual**.

c. Think about it. “Oh, What Jerusalem might have been”. It was a city of blessing. But instead, it had become a city **of war and grief**. What potential for the city of God...but now

d. **Jesus knows your full potential.**

1. He doesn't look at **what you are**, so much as He looks at **what you can become, with His help!**

2. The saddest words ever spoken or even written are these: "**It might have been.**" He knows what you can achieve.

3. Have you blown it, sinned, made a mistake or Fallen Short? If you have failed then you need to get up from your failure and keep moving and not let your past or failure dictate your future. A great future beats, a **great past** every time!

7. **BECAUSE JESUS DESIRES TO GIVE US PEACE IN OUR LIVES**

a. Luke 19:42 “⁴²(Jesus) said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day **what would bring you peace**—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ” (NIV)

1. Notice Jesus says, “*this day what would have brought **you peace**.*”

2. Peace! Worlds and governments chase after it... Peace!

3. Jerusalem means “**city of peace.**” But war for Jerusalem was waiting in the wings. Luke 19:43-44 “⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, **because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.**” (NIV) ...

a. God's People **had rejected Him**. So many people and nations are still rejecting Jesus even today. And because they “no **Peace of God**” therefore, they can't have the **Peace with God**.

b. Listen to what Jesus said about His Peace to His Disciples. We mentioned this verse in last Sunday Sermon. John 14:26-28 “²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷**Peace** I leave with you; **my peace** I give to you. **Not as the world gives** do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, **and I will come to you.**’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

The Peace that Jesus gives is not the **absence of trouble**, but is rather the **confidence** that He is there **with you always**.

b. If you never have trusted in Jesus. He came to offer a different way of living and a different kind of Kingship. Not worldly but from Heaven. He came to offer you, HIS peace. Will you accept it? If you will then pray **this Prayer**: *Lord Jesus today, I recognize you as the true King, I want to follow you for the rest of my life. I denounce this world order as the order for my life. Forgive me of my sins, I believe you came to give me **PEACE**. I accept that **PEACE** for my life. Now I want to live for you. Amen*