

Palm Sunday to Easter: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

Day 1: The King Who Inspects His House

Reading: Leviticus 14:33-48; Mark 11:1-11

Devotional: Jesus entered Jerusalem not merely as a conquering king, but as the Great High Priest inspecting His Father's house. Like the priest examining a home for mold in Leviticus, Jesus came to identify and remove the sin that had infected the temple. When He looked around and left, He was beginning an inspection that would culminate in cleansing.

Consider today: What would Jesus find if He inspected your heart? Are there areas of spiritual "mold"—hidden sins, compromises, or dead religion that looks good from a distance but bears no fruit? Jesus doesn't inspect to condemn, but to cleanse. Invite Him to examine every corner of your life, trusting that what He tears down, He rebuilds into something holy.

Day 2: When Enthusiasm Isn't Enough

Reading: Matthew 13:1-23 (Parable of the Sower); John 8:31-32

Devotional: The crowds shouted "Hosanna!" with genuine enthusiasm on Palm Sunday, yet by Friday they screamed "Crucify Him!" Their passion was real, but it wasn't rooted in true understanding or commitment. Enthusiasm is never to be mistaken for faith.

Many people experience emotional highs in worship, make passionate commitments, or feel close to God during crisis—only to drift away when life stabilizes or Jesus doesn't meet their expectations. True discipleship isn't measured by momentary passion but by faithful endurance.

Reflect honestly: Is your faith built on feelings or on the solid foundation of knowing and following Jesus regardless of circumstances? Proximity to Jesus doesn't equal knowing Jesus. Ask God to deepen your roots so you'll endure when trials come and when the excitement fades.

Day 3: The King We Wanted vs. The King We Needed

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12; John 18:33-37

Devotional: The crowd wanted Jesus to flip Roman tables; instead, He flipped Jewish tables. They wanted a military messiah to defeat their political enemies; Jesus came to convert those enemies and conquer sin itself. Their disappointment turned to rage because Jesus refused to be their puppet.

We often do the same—praising God when He serves our agenda, growing distant

when His plans don't align with ours. We want Jesus to fix our circumstances; He wants to transform our hearts. We want comfort; He offers the cross. We want a genie; He is the Almighty King.

Are you following Jesus on His terms or yours? True worship means surrendering your expectations and submitting to His mission. The King you need is far better than the king you want.

Day 4: Salvation Is Here—Hosanna!

Reading: Luke 19:28-44; Psalm 118:19-29

Devotional: "Hosanna" began as a desperate prayer—"Save, I pray!"—but by Jesus' time had become a victory shout: "Salvation is here!" The crowds weren't begging for help; they were celebrating that help had arrived. They called heaven itself to join their praise: "Hosanna in the highest!"

What glorious truth: salvation isn't something we're still waiting for if we're in Christ. The door stands wide open. The work is finished. The King has come. For two thousand years, we've been living in the "salvation is here" era.

Yet do we live with that confidence? Or do we still act like salvation is uncertain, like we're hoping God might save us? Today, let your heart echo the Palm Sunday crowd's joy: Hooray for salvation! Thank Jesus that you're not waiting to be rescued—you already have been.

Day 5: The Lamb and the Lion

Reading: Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 9:9-10

Devotional: Palm Sunday shows us both comings of Christ. The first time, Jesus came humbly on a donkey, offering peace, riding over palm branches to die as the Lamb of God. The second time, He will return on a white war horse, splitting the Mount of Olives beneath His feet, coming as the Lion of Judah to judge the nations.

The same Jesus who wept over Jerusalem will one day wade through the blood of His enemies. The Savior who died for sinners will return as the righteous Judge. This isn't two different Gods—it's the fullness of who Jesus is.

If you know Him as Savior, you'll meet Him as Friend and King. If you reject Him as Savior, you'll meet Him as Judge. Palm Sunday reminds us: the humble King is coming back in power. Are you ready? Live today in light of that glorious, terrifying return.