

This is Palm Sunday, a day of praise
and rejoicing, a day of celebration.

There was a celebration that happened
several weeks ago, and it was on a
Sunday morning. And it
was part of the Olympics and
it was the men's hockey gold
medal match. And I remember it
was early Sunday morning and I
watched part of it, and then
I had to go to church.

So this shows you my commitment,
right? And so I recorded it and turned
it off. And I don't know if it was in
the middle of the second period, at the
beginning of third period. I don't know.

And so I went to church and forgot all
about it, right? Didn't talk to anybody.

And I came back and turned it back on and
watched as that game played out. Canada
versus the United States. Gold medal in
the Olympic Games and Canada just
dominated shots on goal, if you
remember that. But we had a

goalie and his name is Connor Hellebuyck, I think is his last name and he made incredible, miraculous saves. So at the end of the third. There was 11, and so we had to go into overtime, sudden death. And in that scenario, it's three on three. So not the full team, full team, three on three. And so many of you remember what happened there was one of our players from the United States named Jack. News. That's his picture and he had just, you know, moments before had his front teeth knocked out by a Canadian players hockey stick and with just one minute and 41 seconds into the sudden death overtime period, he scores. The golden goal, the winning goal, and everybody rejoiced, right? And you can imagine across America, there was millions of people who were watching this and standing up and

shouting like I was. And so it was
a great time. Well, I say that because
if you go back 2000 years before that,
there was another celebration. By
millions of people. The Jewish
historian Josephus writes that in
the Passover celebration in the
time of Jesus that there
was upwards of 3 million
people in Jerusalem. A lot
of them had traveled there
for this Passover celebration.
And when 1 certain rabbi came
into the city riding on a
donkey, the Bible tells us that
many, many, many people were cheering
and praising and they were waving
these branches. And of course it
was the triumphal entry on Palm
Sunday that starts what? They call
the Holy Week and if you, you,
you know the, the scenario, right? They
didn't really understand what they were
doing, but they held up those palm

branches that are called hosannas and

literally it, it means in the Greek

save us and it was a declaration.

We want to be saved from these

Romans. So Jesus the Rabbi, you save

us that halal and people would quote

from Psalm 118 and it's the Great

Hallel and they would be waving those

and it was a symbol back to

something 200 years before Jesus when

the. That could be ANS threw

off the the Syrians and that's what

they put on their coins that palm

branch meaning hosanna save us from our

enemies. So all this is going on,

there's cheering, Jesus comes in and the

thing about it is we know.

That most of those people really

did not know what they were

cheering about, but they were praising

and God was honored by that.

Well, the big idea this morning

is simply this, that you are

made to praise and living a

life of daily praise.

I'd say for your Savior is it Savior

is a sure sign that you are spiritually

healthy believer. What do I mean by that?

It could be that today you've been

praising and yet your soul is a little

bit sick. It could be that you're

stressed out today. Could be that you've

got some signature sin that's pulling at

you. If it be honest, honest enough

to admit it today, it could be that

you're going through some grief, some

heartache, certainly wondering about the

future for this church and for our

country as we're at war. There's lots

going on, and the way to determine if

you're healthy is in spite of it all.

Are you able to truly, from your soul,

praise God from whom all blessings flow?

Are you able to lift up the name

of Jesus so that he will draw all

people to himself? That's the sign of

spiritual health. And we're going to talk

about that today. So that's what's at

stake we're going to be talking about.

Are are you healthy? Is praise just a

Sunday thing or is it seven days a week?

And who are you really praising? Are you

praising the real Jesus or your version

of Jesus? So that's where we're going

today. So there's a lot at stake as we

celebrate Palm Sunday with, if you

remember the the calendar of that week.

Today was the triumphal entry. Monday was

the clearing, the cleansing of the

temple. Tuesday was the the pushback from

the religious leaders and the testing of

Jesus trying to trick him. Wednesday was

evidently a day of rest. And then of

course, we know Thursday was the Last

Supper. It was the trip to get.

Lemony, the betrayal, the arrest of

Jesus. Friday, of course, was his

mock trial in the early illegal

morning hours, and then his crucifixion

and burial. Saturday Jesus rested, and

Sunday, praise God, we have the

resurrection of Jesus. So that's the

week. So this morning, let's look again at this story and see what we can apply to our lives. So I'm going to be reading from Luke 19:29 through 36, and then we're going to fill in the blanks from the other gospels about what happened on Palm Sunday. Luke 19:29 through 34:36. So if you have your copy of God's Word, open it up or turn it on and let's read this.

As he Jesus approached Bethpage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples saying to them, go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find a colt there which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone asks you why are you untying it?

Claimed the Lord needs it. Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he told them. You know our God is a God of omnipotence.

And though Jesus did set aside a bit of his powers that he still

held right, This is one of the signs that. He could see the future knew what was going on as they were untying the cult, the owners, its owners asking why are you untying the cult? They replied the Lord needs it. They brought it to Jesus through their cloaks on the coat and put Jesus on it as he went along. People spread their cloaks on the road. So that's Doctor Luke. How about John, He says. Meanwhile this is. John 12. Meanwhile, a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came not only because of him, but to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. See, Jesus was headed to the House of Lazarus, so the chief priest made plans to kill Lazarus as well. Did you know that? For on account of him, many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their

190
00:08:15,829 --> 00:08:17,1000
faith in him. So kill Jesus, kill

191
00:08:17,1000 --> 00:08:20,171
Lazareth, take care of the problem. Well,

Matthew the Gospel writer says it this way. And Matthew 21/8. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees, spread them on the road. John 12 They took palm branches, shouted Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, blessed as the king of Israel. And they meant king, not king of kings and Lord of Lords, but we want a new king. Luke 19 When he came to the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples. Began joyfully to praise God in a loud voice for all the miracles he had seen. And then Matthew 21 this took place. This is the why it took place to fulfill Scripture, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Zechariah. Say to the daughter of Zion, see, your king comes to you, gentlemen, riding on a donkey on a colt. Fall of the donkey. We know that there's over 300 specific prophecies of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament,

right? We know this. You know his the
time of his birth, the place of his
birth, how it took place, His ministries,
His miracles, his teaching, His
substitutionary death on a cross, His
resurrection. It was. All prophesied,
including his triumphal entry. So
with that as the background
our our story this morning
Palm Sunday, let's let's pull
out some principles for you
and me, shall we? And
and here's the first one
that all people. You
and me are created to
praise the Savior whether they
recognize him or not. What
do I mean by that?
When when we were in
South Africa, we got an
Uber ride and the driver
was a Muslim man. He had
a wife and three kids and I'm from the
back seat. I'm talking to him and I'm

kind of telling him what we were doing
down there. And I mentioned Jesus. And
when I said Jesus, he perked up and he
said, ohh, we Muslims love Jesus. You,
you do know that they have a high respect
for Jesus. As a prophet, one of
the prophets, you do know that Jesus is
not just in the old test, but in
new, but he's in the book of the
Koran. But they do not believe in what
we're celebrating next week, the
resurrection of Jesus. They don't believe
in that and that he's also the Savior.
For all people, all tribes and tongues.
But it was interesting for me to see this
reverence from Jesus, even though he
fully didn't understand the Jesus that we
know. That's kind of what
was happening on that Palm Sunday
as they shouted out Hosanna and
waved those palm branches. They didn't
really understand what they were doing.
But here's the thing. God did.
And isn't it interesting? Isn't it

just like God that in this week? He knew that Jesus were going to be under great pressure, in turmoil and conflict, like the cleansing of the temple that He gave his Son on this Palm Sunday 2000 years ago, an opportunity to receive love and praise and rejoicing. He knew that that would be turned. In to Jesus on his knees in the garden of the Yosemite, sweating, sweat, drops of blood, saying God, if this can go away, please do it, but nevertheless, not my will, but yours. And God arranged this group of people who didn't even understand what they were doing to praise the Son of God. Jesus said if they hadn't done it, who would? The stones? God could raise up rocks and stones to praise Jesus. And that's just good of our God to provide that for Him. You see, I believe that every person on earth was created to praise God. You are created to worship Him.

I'm designed for praise. The Bible says that the heavens what declare the glory of the Lord, that that the earth speaks and declares God's glory. That's why we're taking up space, folks. That's why we breathe out oxygen. The Westminster Confession. Anybody know what that says about it? The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. That's why you're created. That's doing it seven days a week, not just on church day. We were created. You are created for praise and so as we talk about this now some of us have I go to the.

Doctor wants a year, I go for my annual checkup. And you know, the routine, they do a blood work up, they, you know, examine me and all of that. OK, clean bill of health, that's good. But maybe we need a spiritual checkup. And maybe this morning you'd be honest enough to say, yeah, I'm not doing that great spiritually right now. I'm not

living. Life of praise.

I I, I'm kind of in a funk

right now and life is uncertain for me

or I'm going through this or I'm I'm

just tried by this, this besetting sin

and I'm trying to get past it and

get over it and I've confessed it and

I'm still tempted. And maybe it's say

your spiritual. But your soul isn't doing

too well right now. Can I suggest

to you that go back to your

purpose. Go back to the purpose for

which you were made. That's to praise

your God. Start there giving praise to

Jesus every single morning, every single

day, and throughout the day.

And here's the deal. If we think

about these people who really didn't

understand what they were shouting and

singing about and quoting scripture about

and praising, they didn't understand the

true Messiah of Jesus. Could it be

that some of us have grown up?

You know, we have a misconception. We're

praising Jesus, but it's not the real
Jesus. Maybe for some of us it's it's
the Jesus who's the gentle and meek and
mild Jesus who would never demand
anything from me. Maybe
it's the Jesus who He's all about
love and not too much about truth.
It's the Jesus that we fashion in our
lives. It's the Jesus that says I've done
enough, I've served the church, I don't
need to serve anymore. Maybe it's that
Jesus. Maybe it's the Jesus that you
think kind of winks his eye because he
knows you're a Sinner and so it's really
okay. Some of the things you've gotten
into, he'll forgive you anyway. Maybe
it's that false. Jesus. But we all have
to be careful that we are praising the
real Jesus. And how do I know who
the real Jesus is? It's through this,
right? I can listen to people, I can
look at social media, I can listen to
other sermons. But this is the definitive
guide to Jesus, Old Testament and New.

That's how you know you're worshipping
the real Jesus, who is this perfect
balance of grace and truth.

That's how we know it's you're
worshipping him and that it's about him.

A quick story. There's a guy from
the church in Omaha. His name is
Glenn Creighton and he was part of
the chosen series. So he was part
of the scene of the feeding of
the 5000 and then. He was part
of the scene of Palm Sunday, the
triumphal entry, and he's this guy
that's, you know, 6 foot 2, long,
black, curly, naturally curly hair. He's
got the beard. He looks like he's
a Jew or a Palestinian. And so
he was perfect and his uncle, evidently.
Is he's a good fabricator of leather
and cloth. His uncle made him an
authentic robe of a Jewish man for
the time with the tassels on the
bottom and everything. Just gorgeous. And
so he was in these scenes feeding

the 5000 but for the triumphal entry

Palm Sunday. Seen.

The one of the directors of that episode

brought him up from the back and said,

hey, you come up here because he looked

the part and he put him more in

the front of the crowd that was doing

the waving of the palm branches and all

of this. And so Glen was there in

front of other people. And he's, he's

just, he's acting it out, right? He is

jumping up and down and shouting and

singing. And there's a, a shorter lady

behind him named Bonita as he tells his

story. And Benita tapped

him on the back of his shoulder

and said, none of us can see

anything with you jumping up like that

and acting crazy, right? And you're

shouting so loud you're you're taking

away from Jesus. And ohh, that got

Glenn. And so he took a step

back. And he took short little Benita and

put him in front, put her in front of

him. And that's how the scene was shot.

But it was a lesson to him that real

praise is not about you. Just

like Rob, I appreciate you and the

worship team this morning and I love

those songs, but worship's not about you.

Are you here to hear your favorite songs

or you hear to give your heart to

God and praise Him? See, real praise,

real worship is not about you and me.

It's all about Jesus. And that's the

litmus test. If you're if

your needs come first, that's not true

worship. If your preferences dominate,

that's not true praise. And so we're

called to give our all and to

praise and. That's that's what's

going on here. Your spiritual health

depends upon a life of praise. So

how do we do this? Well, fortunately,

God's Word helps us out. Hebrews 13:15

through Jesus, remember this verse.

Therefore, let us continually offer to

God a sacrifice of praise. Here's the

first part. The fruit of lips

that confess His name. So it's telling

us how to do it. We praise

God with the fruit of our lips.

Verse 15. So the definition of praise,

the expression of approval or admiration

for someone or something, really. It's a

Greek word. That, uh, means

an act of thank, offering

or praise and it is

something that we do with

our voices. So as we

think about this, the primary

reason that we have voice

in our being. Is to express

gratitude and thanks and praise to our

God. That's how we're to use our voices.

Again, as I've said, that's what

Scripture says that all creation does. I

mean, we look out in our house there

on the South side of Lee's Summit. We

get to look at to kind of a

wetland. And there's some grass and, and

yeah, a wetland and then trees and

a Creek. And so we get to
watch the deer and all that kind
of stuff. And everything's turning right
now. Our red bud tree is popping
right? And our, our Tulip, yellow Tulip
is coming up. And the birds. About
singing and I can sit on our
deck and just listen to all of
creation. Praise God, that's what it's
doing. And if if those sparrows and that
cardinal and those Blue Jays and those
red tail Hawks and the grass as it
starts to come up and the tulips as
they start to pop, if they're praising
God, how much more should I be praising
God every single day? And living
a life of worship so
real praise comes from your
voice. That is
the name of Jesus. Every knee shall bow
right? And every tongue confess that
Jesus Lord to glory. The God the Father,
right? That's it. And
let me ask you, if you only praise

God on Sundays, how spiritually healthy
are you? How legitimate are you if this
is the the day that the only day
that you sing to God, the only day
that you praise him is is on Sundays?

Wait, that's one day out of seven.

That doesn't speak to spiritual health to
me, right? And when and when you do your
daily prayers, many of you, hopefully
everybody but you do your daily prayers.

His praise a big part of it or

do you jump right to the asking? You

know one helpful acrostic for praying is

you know a CTS, right? Another one is

PRAY. You heard of this one? So the

P is praise God first for who he

is. You enter his presence by

acknowledging God. You are perfect. You

are creator, you are sinless, you're

bigger than I can imagine. You are

eternal, you are self existence. You're

all powerful, all knowing and ever

present God. You are great. You start

with praising Him for who he is,

his character, and then you praise Him
for what he's done. That's Thanksgiving.

And you recount to him from your
spiritual blessings, your, your people
blessing, your education, your, your
financial blessings, your physical
blessings, your relational blessings.

Then you ask, then you've after you've
done that and done your pray praise
part, that's the P, then you repent.

OK God, you're all that. Or not

I failed. Forgive me Lord, you repent and
then the a the ask for your prayer
requests and all of that and then the why
is at the end of the all that you yield.

Why is that's one of the biggest parts is

OK God, what are you trying to tell me
today? What's what's coming around the
corner for me today that you can see. I

can't. I'm gonna yield today. Yield to
you. And a lot of times my why is

in Scripture because I always put

scripture with prayer and just OK, what

are you saying to me from Scripture? How

could I yield to you today? So praying
well, real praise is the fruit of your
lips. But it goes on to say this is
the last part. Hebrews 13:16 And do not
forget to do good and to share with
others, for with such sacrifices God is
pleased. So it's the fruit of your lips,
and it's the fruit of your lives.

Let me ask you, how have you praised
God this past week? With the fruit of
your hands, the fruit of your lives? Have
you helped anybody out? Did you serve
anybody? Did you? Did you give of your
time or your talents or your money to
the Lord or to someone? How did you
show to your neighbors? Your friends know
that you're a person of praise because
that's just the way you live your life.

It's not about you, it's about Christ.

Galatians 6:9 and 10 says let's not become
weary in doing good for at the proper
time we will reap a harvest if we do
not give up. He goes on to say is
you have an opportunity, let's do good to

all people, especially to those who

belong to the household of faith.

Well again, I'm gonna close with this.

How you guys doing? Cause I don't know

any of you super, super intimately. Let

me just how's your soul? How's your

spirit doing?

Because not all Ave. Baptist Church is

you. It's not this building, it's you.

So how you doing? And let me

encourage you in this coming Holy Week

this week, set aside, do an inventory

on your life of praise. Closing

illustration. I am your representative

for the International Mission Board. I'm

a trustee. And I represent Kansas,

Nebraska, and I also am assigned to

sub-Saharan Africa. That's my area, which

works out great because we helped start

an orphanage down in Zambia and I'll be

going there in September. We also built a

Christian School in Juba, South Sudan.

And so this fits. So anyway, I get

to hear. Lots of missionary stories, and

I'll share some of those over time
because some of them are just miraculous,
But this is one that a missionary heard
about this going on in a village. There
was a woman who was possessed by demons,
and I've seen that in Africa, by the way,
in a little village called Kawaji in the
Southern Province. And this woman
was possessed by evil spirits, by demons,
and the tribe of believers gathered
around her, formed a circle, put her
in the mirror in the middle, and
then they did not incant some chant
over her, some deliverance thing or
anything like that. You know what they
did? They did what they're created to
do. They praised Jesus. So in this circle
they began singing and clapping and
praising the Lord, singing to Him. You
know what she did? She fell on her
knees and started crawling like an animal
with her claws, trying to get out of
that circle. The demons had
her and they pushed her back in the

middle of the circle and they kept
praising. Didn't say anything,
just praised Jesus over and over
and over and eventually that woman
became as dead and then was
able to get up and was
delivered completely. See, what I'm
saying is that's your warfare. It's
worship. That's the
plan for this week. It's praise.
That's how God works. See, you can't be
doing your favorite sin and praise Jesus
at the same time, can you? You can't
really worry and be sunk down in
depression about in and depression about
your future, this church's future, or the
future of the United States when you're
praising and singing to Jesus.
Worship is the warfare. So let me
encourage you to make sure every day
this week, not just in the morning
or the evening, but throughout the day,
praise Him for what you see Him
doing, praise Him with with your lives,

praise Him with your lips and He
will make a difference. In your
life, in this church, in our community.
If we're talking about praising Jesus,
right? I trust that every one of
you have done your business with Jesus,
the living Lord. He's the only one who
can save the soul. He's the only one who
can forgive. And if you're here today and
you've known about Jesus forever, but
you've never trusted him, you've never
been able to really praise Him in a
personal way because you don't know him.
What better day than Palm Sunday to ask
Christ to truly, truly the real Jesus,
not the invented one, to come in and be
Lord of your life and just surrender to
Him. Ask forgiveness for your sins and
ask Him to come in and take control.
There's no better today than than right
now. And I