

Palm Sunday: “The First March Madness!”

The Desperation and Desire for a Messiah

Despite the crippling power of the Romans, Israel had not given up hope!

Zechariah 9:8-10

Isaiah 62:8-9

Can you imagine what it was like the day the Messiah finally came?

John 12:12-15

Matthew 21:6-11

The crowd can't wait to see what happens when he rides into Jerusalem! The Messiah will judge the ungodly. He will finally remove the pagan Romans from power. He will ride right up to the Antonia, make his way into their fortress, the very heart of the ungodly, and he will drive them out. The temple will finally be free and cleansed from the ungodly!

March Madness

Matthew 21:12-15

As the people had prayed for years, the Messiah *did* come at Passover to judge the ungodly. But to their shock, he confronted them and not the Romans!

You never know what Jesus is going to do....when he shows up!

Amos 5:21-24

“You're interested in religion, but I'm interested in people.”

Cleansing Today's Temple

When Jesus rides into town, you just never know where he might go or what he might do. We think he's got to be for us and against "those evil people." But in reality, he's against sin, wherever he finds it. *He's out to destroy anything that separates people from God.*

We are his temple...

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The whole point is that Jesus would go after what we assume and accept. So, what are those things?

1. Are we valuing power and strength over humility, love and service?

In our desire to defeat enemies are we're losing Christian virtues, the fruit of the Spirit?

"If we strive to establish God's rule through self-assertion over neighborly care, pragmatism over principle, and malice over love, then whatever else we accomplish, we are no longer following in the way of Jesus. God chose meekness, integrity, and love to gather his people. That is the message of Palm Sunday. For all the shouts of acclamation, Jesus never lost sight of the cross." Esau McCaulley

2. Are we valuing our Bibles more than people?

"Today I am more convinced of inerrancy than at any time in my Christian life, but the charge of Bible Idolatry, or at least a near, if not kissing cousin, is one I fear is hard to refute (deny). To be more specific, in the actual practices of the Evangelical community in North America, there is an over-commitment to Scripture in a way that is false, irrational, and harmful to the cause of Christ."

1 Timothy 3:16-17

Are we putting the same time and energy into opening ourselves to people in pain, people who are without hope and without God, as we do into "knowing the Bible?"

Where this week can we in deep humility love and serve others this week Easter?