

## **Palm Sunday**

Pastor Ken

### **I. Introduction**

- a. Today we celebrate an important day in Christianity known as Palm Sunday.
- b. Palm Sunday represents the day that Jesus came back into Jerusalem, knowing that he would be crucified and resurrected in the same week.

### **II. Palm Sunday**

- a. Jesus entered the city on a donkey to a crowd of people excited to see Him and honored Him as a king by laying palm branches before Him as a path for royalty.
- b. The people recognized Jesus' triumphant entry back into Jerusalem by shouting "Hosanna, to the Son of David blessed be one that comes in the name of the Lord."
- c. It was interesting to note that the same crowd that shouted Hosanna, shouted crucify Him a few days later.

### **III. Passion Week**

- a. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of what many people know as Passion Week, which is simply the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.
- b. This week is a good time to reflect on the price that Jesus has paid for us to defeat death, hell and the grave on our behalf.
- c. This is a good time, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, to invite someone to church and to extend an opportunity for others to know Jesus.

### **Luke 14:16-23 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

<sup>18</sup> "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

<sup>19</sup> "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

<sup>20</sup> "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

<sup>21</sup> "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

<sup>22</sup> "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

<sup>23</sup> "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'

- d. This story tells us about the heart of God and the part that He asks us to play.
- e. From this parable, we can assume that God represents the master that sends us as His servants to reach His people.
- f. It is common to encounter people with excuses when we invite others to church with us (i.e., traveling plans, busy with work projects).
- g. If we start to act like we are too important or busy for God, He will find people who are hungry for Him and willing to put Him first to see the church filled.

#### **IV. One Invite Can Save a Life**

- a. One invite can save a life, which can save thousands of other lives.
- b. God is alive and still moving in people's lives, once they commit to a God first lifestyle.
  - i. Learning about our God-given identity to improve self-esteem
  - ii. Having a more positive outlook on difficult situations
  - iii. Getting out of financial debt
  - iv. Forgiving family members and friends of past hurt
  - v. Receiving healing of health problems and stop taking medication
  - vi. Overcome suicidal thoughts and low points in life
  - vii. Living beyond a past of abuse, poverty and depression to experience God's love and abundant life
- c. We can compel people to come to church with us in a creative way that gives the Holy Spirit room to pull at their heart.

#### **James 5:20 NIV**

<sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

#### **V. We Change Lives**

- a. 3 considerations
  - i. Participating in a search team for a missing child of someone we love
  - ii. Giving someone a cure to a disease if we had the cure
  - iii. Helping the local church change more lives
- b. We are all born in sin, which is a spiritual disease that we will be judged for by a Holy God (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23).
- c. The only way to avoid damnation is to repent of our sin and put our faith in Jesus by faith because he is the cure to sin (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- d. "We change lives" is the motivation of why we sacrifice personal time and use our gifts to interact with God's people in a way that glorifies God.
  - i. i.e., host a small group, commit to attend church early to volunteer, travel a distance to attend church.

#### **VI. Ways to Change Lives**

- i. Join a serve team
- ii. Lead a connect group

- iii. Give financially
- iv. Invite people to church