

Passion Week *Devotionals*

Palm Sunday
by Candice Anderson

Read | Matthew 20.25-28, 21.1-11, Zechariah 9.9

Matthew 21:5 “Say to Daughter Zion, See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as the promised king to fulfill prophecy, but not in the way that the people expected. He did not aspire to become a ruler who would exercise authority on earth by conquering Israel's enemies and making them a great nation. His goal was much greater. The same people shouting “Hosanna” and praising him would be shouting “crucify him” in just a few days, because they did not understand his mission on earth was to save them for eternity not just from their temporary circumstances.

I recently read a commentary about Palm Sunday that brought something to my attention that I had never noticed before. Jesus rode through Jerusalem not on a warhorse, like you might imagine a mighty king on, but on a beast of burden. Donkeys were not commonly ridden in those days but used for hard labor and to carry heavy loads. I always thought of the donkey as a symbol of humility and still do, but now I also see the symbolism of Jesus coming into Jerusalem carrying the weight of our burdens knowing that he was on his way to the cross for us. It doesn't stop there though. He tells us in the Word “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.

I have clung to that promise so many times, especially over the last few years. My husband and I care for my elderly aunt and his elderly mother, we have a home daycare,

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and three children. If I'm being honest, at times I feel overwhelmed by all the needs of everyone around me. There have been times when I have felt like someone needed me from the time my feet hit the floor until the time my head hit the pillow. I know that God has called us to this season, and that He has equipped us with everything we need to do the work He has called us to, but I have to allow Him to help me carry the load. I was never meant to carry all of this on my own.

I have a king who took on flesh and walked through this life and understands the meaning of hard work and struggle and heartache and family drama. He's not just a ruler who sits on a throne and exerts his authority over me, He loves me enough to take on my burdens and walk through my pain with me.

I just have to allow Him to help me carry the load.

Prayer & Reflection:

- ***What is your heavy load?***
- ***Are you trying to carry it all on your own?***
- ***Jesus came that we could have a life of abundance and freedom and joy and He has already paid the price for our sins and He wants to help us carry our burdens and lighten our loads.***
- ***Spend some time in prayer giving your burdens to Him and thanking Him for taking them!***