

Palm Sunday, this wonderful day when Jesus claimed His kingship! Not as a warring king, but one promising peace and hope. Hope, expectation of eternal life in heaven with our Heavenly Father, and peace, soulful peace in knowing God has called all mankind in to His very presence.

John 12:12-19

*<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting,*

*“Hosanna!”*

*“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”*

*“Blessed is the king of Israel!”*

*<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:*

*<sup>15</sup> “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your King is coming,  
seated on a donkey’s colt.”*

*<sup>16</sup> At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that these things had been done to Him.*

*<sup>17</sup> Now the crowd that was with Him when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. <sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that He had performed this sign, went out to meet Him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”*

We, as Jesus’s disciples, do understand because beautiful words recorded in the Bible reveal His glory constantly to hearts ready to hear. Those not willing to know the truth like the Pharisees will always cause chaos and confusion. We have a responsibility on this day; we are to proclaim who Jesus is to the world. This day of celebration prepares us to once again receive the message of Easter; Jesus is risen from the dead. We too, by faith, have been raised from death to eternal life by the grace of God.

So, what do our lives tell the world around us? Who are we in this story, the disciples following instructions, the crowd who witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead, those recognizing prophecy coming to life or the Pharisees stuck in their religion? I believe we have been all of these at one time or another, but today we are to do more than celebrate. No longer are we only the palm-waver—we are those walking the road proclaiming Christ as Savior.

In Colossians, we find every word of truth that all mankind needs to hear, needs to live. The very Kingdom of God is exposed, and nothing is hidden.

Colossians 1:15-23

*<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the Church; He is the beginning and the Firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.*

*<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

If any person has any interest of who God is and why He chose to come to us as a human, the above scripture explains all of it. This is what we celebrate on Palm Sunday and live for every day. We are able to share our faith in confidence with others by first believing, and then by telling them what God has done for us. In Romans 10 we find hope in God's promise of salvation to us.

## Romans 10:8-13

<sup>8</sup> *But what does it say? “The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, <sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

When we share our testimony with others, our faith becomes personal and relatable. Remembering what God has done for us in the past and how that is significant in where we are today reveals our vulnerability. The Psalms is a wonderful place to go and find how God has provided for us in all situations.

## Psalm 40:2

<sup>2</sup> *He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.*

What a blessing to share with others how we were once floundering and because of His love He provided firm ground for us to stand on! Our world is floundering and is looking for something firm to believe in. When we show empathy in our walk of faith towards others, they to feel the love of God.

## John 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

This is the message of Palm Sunday that the world needs to hear!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Archie