



## A Stand Alone Message | Behold the King | Dan Lian | 03.29.26

### Palm Sunday - A Study on Love, Sacrifice, and Invitation

#### Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for His incredible love demonstrated through Jesus and asking the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds during your discussion.

#### Icebreaker

**Share a time when someone went out of their way for you.** How did their sacrifice make you feel? How far did they have to travel or what did they give up?

#### Key Takeaways

##### 1. Behold Means to Pause and Stare

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week when Jesus entered Jerusalem as the humble servant King. "Behold" means to intentionally stop, look, and soak in the awesomeness of what God has done.

##### 2. God's Love Measured Out

Love can be measured by the distance traveled. Jesus left heaven's throne, stepped into our darkness, and traveled all the way to the cross for us.

##### 3. The Price Was Paid

All have sinned and fall short (Romans 3:23), but Jesus paid the debt we couldn't pay. He put our bill on His tab and cleared our account with His perfect blood.

#### 4. **Jesus Made a Way**

Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). Not our goodness, morality, or spirituality—only Jesus makes reconciliation with God possible.

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### Discussion Questions:

#### Understanding the Message

1. **What does it mean to "behold" the King?** Why is it important that we intentionally pause to reflect on Jesus, especially during Holy Week?
2. **Pastor Dan mentioned three reasons why beholding is important.** Which one resonated most with you?
  - Making our invitations compelling
  - Preventing us from taking Jesus for granted
  - Helping those with religion find a relationship
3. **Read Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:4-5.** What is significant about Jesus riding on a donkey rather than a warhorse? What does this tell us about His character?

#### Personal Reflection

4. **Have you ever felt unlovable or that God's love for you fluctuates based on your behavior?** How does understanding that Jesus measured out His love by the distance He traveled change your perspective?
5. **Pastor Dan used the golf course story to illustrate debt and payment.** Share about a time when you truly grasped that Jesus paid a price you couldn't pay. How did that realization impact you?
6. **"You are so loved."** Turn to someone in your group and say this to them. How does it feel to hear it? How does it feel to say it?

## Application and Action

7. **Pastor Dan emphasized that when we behold Jesus, our invitations to others become compelling.** Who is God bringing to your mind that you could invite to Easter service? What might be holding you back from inviting them?
  8. **What are some practical ways you can "behold" Jesus this Holy Week?** How can you be intentional about not letting Easter become routine or taken for granted?
  9. **Many people believe they can earn their way to God through good works or morality.** How would you explain to a friend that Jesus is the only way, without sounding judgmental or exclusive?
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose at least TWO of the following:

1. **Behold Daily:** Set aside 10-15 minutes each day this week to read through the Passion Week accounts (Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, or John 18-21). Journal about what strikes you.
  2. **Invite Intentionally:** Write down 3-5 names of people you want to invite to Easter service. Pray for them daily and reach out with a personal invitation.
  3. **Measure Love:** Reflect on how far Jesus traveled for you. Write a prayer or letter to Jesus expressing gratitude for His sacrifice.
  4. **Share Your Story:** If you made a decision to follow Jesus today or in the past, share your testimony with at least one person this week—either someone in your group or someone outside the church.
  5. **Serve Sacrificially:** Jesus demonstrated love through service. Find one way to serve someone this week that requires you to go out of your way (travel distance, give up time, sacrifice comfort).
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## Memory Verse

**John 3:16** "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."

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## Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for measuring out His love through Jesus
  - Pray for those who made first-time decisions for Christ
  - Ask for boldness to invite family and friends to Easter service
  - Pray for open hearts among those who will be invited
  - Ask God to help the group never take Jesus for granted
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## Leader Notes

- **Be sensitive:** Some group members may have made a decision today or be wrestling with whether they truly know Jesus. Create space for honest conversation.
  - **Celebrate decisions:** If anyone in your group raised their hand during the service, celebrate with them and offer to answer any questions.
  - **Follow up on invitations:** Next week, check in on who invited people and how it went. Encourage and support one another.
  - **Keep it personal:** The sermon was deeply personal about God's love. Don't let the discussion become merely intellectual—help people connect emotionally and spiritually.
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## Additional Resources

- Read the Passion Week accounts in all four Gospels this week
  - Consider watching a film about Jesus' life (The Passion of the Christ, The Chosen, etc.)
  - Listen to worship music focused on the cross and resurrection
  - Attend Good Friday and Easter Sunday services as a group
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