

## Palm Sunday Message

*This Day was Made for Singing* || **Luke 19:28–40**

North Center || April 2, 2023

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Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most important week of the year: *Holy Week*. On this week, we remember the most monumental battle in history...

- when **the greatest warrior king** who ever lived
  - defeated **the most wicked villain** who ever lived
    - through **the most unexpected battleplan** ever devised:
      - *the sacrifice death of the king.*

Through his own death, this warrior king would destroy the forces of evil forever.

Here in **Luke 19**, as the warrior king was riding into Holy City, His battleplan was to die.<sup>1</sup> Nobody saw it coming. Nobody expected it. Not his enemies. Not his followers.

He had talked about His plan with His followers,<sup>2</sup> but none of them had ever taken it seriously because it didn't make any sense.<sup>3</sup> He was the Messiah who was prophesied to lead God's people in victory over the enemy...

- But they could not fathom how there was any victory in death.<sup>4</sup>
  - *Death is where hope perishes.*<sup>5</sup>
  - *Death is where dreams disappear.*
  - *Death is where the story ends.*

His battleplan felt utterly **reckless** to them.

- The Cambridge English Dictionary defines **reckless** as “*doing something dangerous and not worrying about the risks...*”<sup>6</sup>
- Another dictionary defines **reckless** as a “*defiant disregard for danger or consequences.*”<sup>7</sup>

That's what this warrior's battleplan felt like to His followers... it felt **reckless**.<sup>8</sup> They couldn't understand it, and so they didn't believe it.<sup>9</sup>

- Who is this warrior? *Jesus*.
- Who is the enemy He came to destroy? *Sin... and death... and hell... and Satan*.<sup>10</sup>
- What was His battleplan? *The cross*.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt 20:28; John 3:16; 1 Pet 2:24.

<sup>2</sup> **Matt 16:21–23** (c.f., Mark 8:31–32; Luke 9:21–22); **Matt 17:22–23** (c.f., Mark 9:30–32; Luke 9:43–45); **Matt 20:17–19** (c.f., Mark 10:32–34; Luke 18:31–34). See also John 3:14; 12:7–8; 13:33.

<sup>3</sup> E.g., Mark 9:30–34; Luke 9:46; 22:24.

<sup>4</sup> Col 2:13–14; 3:15 (c.f., Isa 53:5–6). They could not yet imagine the stunning glory of gospel: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death” (Matt Maher, *Christ is Risen*).

<sup>5</sup> E.g., Psa 30:9; Isa 38:18.

<sup>6</sup> [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org)

<sup>7</sup> [www.vocabulary.com](http://www.vocabulary.com)

<sup>8</sup> Like **Frodo** walking into the fiery center of Mount Doom. Like **Aslan** going to the stone table to be strapped down and killed.

<sup>9</sup> This is the way it often works for us too, isn't it? We have a hard time believing what we don't understand (e.g., John 20:25).

<sup>10</sup> 1 Cor 15:55–58.

<sup>11</sup> John 3:14.

On this day, as Jesus rode toward the Holy City, the crowds erupted with shouts of singing because they believed that Jesus had come to save them (**Luke 19:37–38**).

- Now they just had **no idea** who their enemy truly was...<sup>12</sup>
- **or** what it would take for Jesus to save them.
- They had **no idea** what was coming.
- They had **no idea** that the battle He was about to fight would literally shake heaven and earth in just a few days.<sup>13</sup>

All they knew was that they had been waiting for this moment their entire life, and **so they couldn't help but sing**. The Messiah had come, and they had to sing.

### **the Waiting...**

He was **promised** from the very beginning of human history. In the Garden of Eden, God told our enemy that one day a warrior would come who would crush his head.<sup>14</sup> And the people of God had been **waiting** for that day ever since.

For thousands of years, they continued to see glimpses of this coming victory...

Have you ever seen a **movie** where, right before it reaches the climax of the story, the movie replays all of the **highlights** (usually in **slow motion**) that led to this moment?

If God were to give us a slow-motion replay of all the highlights (one after another) leading up to this climactic moment... I think it would take our breath away. **Every moment** of human history was anticipating this week...<sup>15</sup>

- God telling the **serpent** that a warrior would come who would crush His head...<sup>16</sup>
- **Noah** striking his hammer against the wood as he built the boat of his salvation.<sup>17</sup>
- **Abraham** staring up at the night sky as God promised to give him a family that would outnumber the stars...<sup>18</sup>
- **Abraham** holding a knife in his hand, ready to sacrifice his only son, as the voice of Almighty God stops him and shows him a different sacrifice...<sup>19</sup>
- **Joseph** being **sold** to the enemy for the price of a slave...<sup>20</sup>
- The door opening from **Joseph's** prison cell as he was about to save the world from a global famine...<sup>21</sup>
- **Moses** standing before the most powerful ruler on earth and commanding him to let God's people go...<sup>22</sup>
- **Aaron's staff** turning into a serpent and eating all the Egyptian staffs...<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> They thought the Messiah had come to conquer the surrounding nations and free them from their physical oppression.

<sup>13</sup> Matt 27:51.

<sup>14</sup> Gen 3:15.

<sup>15</sup> Matt 5:17–18; Luke 24:44; John 5:39–40, 46.

<sup>16</sup> Gen 3:15.

<sup>17</sup> Gen 6:13–22.

<sup>18</sup> Gen 15:5.

<sup>19</sup> Gen 22:1–19.

<sup>20</sup> Gen 37:28.

<sup>21</sup> Gen 41:14.

<sup>22</sup> Exod 5:1.

<sup>23</sup> Exod 7:12.

- The blood of the **sacrificial lamb** being wiped across the doorway of the Israelite's home so that the angel of death would pass over them...<sup>24</sup>
- The **Israelites** staring at a **wall of water** as they passed through the Red Sea...<sup>25</sup>
- **Moses** holding his staff in the air as the sea came crashing down on the Egyptians...<sup>26</sup>
- The **scapegoat** wandering in the wilderness as it symbolically takes away the sin of the people...<sup>27</sup>
- The musicians blowing their **trumpets** as the enemy walls of **Jericho** came crashing down...<sup>28</sup>
- **Jael** pounding her tent peg through the head of their enemy leader...<sup>29</sup>
- **Samson** swinging the jawbone of a donkey as he defeated 1,000 enemy warriors...<sup>30</sup>
- **David's** stone sinking into Goliath's forehead as the enemy giant fell to the ground...<sup>31</sup>
- **David** swinging his sword as he defeated every single enemy in the land...<sup>32</sup>
- **Jonah** taking his first breath on dry land after being inside the belly of the fish for 3 days...<sup>33</sup>
- **Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego** standing in the furnace with Jesus...<sup>34</sup>
- **Daniel** looking into the sunlight after the stone was rolled away from the lion's den...<sup>35</sup>
- King **Josiah** rediscovering the Word of God that had been lost...<sup>36</sup>
- **John the Baptist**, covered in camel's hair (with wild locust and honey stuck to his beard), standing in Jordan River, preaching repentance...<sup>37</sup>
- **Jesus** casting out **demons** with a single word...<sup>38</sup>
- **Lazarus** emerging from the darkness of the tomb after being dead for days...<sup>39</sup>

All these moments (and 10,000 other highlights) were leading up to this day as the promised Messiah rode to Jerusalem to conquer the enemy of *sin & death & hell & Satan for good* – and *forever*.

Every moment of human history had been building toward this week.

**So how do the people respond? *They sing.***

Their promised salvation had finally come, and their response was to sing. And Jesus loved it! The Pharisees told Jesus to make His followers shut up (**Luke 19:39**), and Jesus said, "No way!"

**But He answered and said to them,  
"I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."**

**~ Luke 19:40**

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<sup>24</sup> Exod 12:21–28.

<sup>25</sup> Exod 14:21–22.

<sup>26</sup> Exod 14:23–31.

<sup>27</sup> Lev 16:7–10.

<sup>28</sup> Josh 6:20.

<sup>29</sup> Judg 4:21.

<sup>30</sup> Judg 15:15.

<sup>31</sup> 1 Sam 17:49.

<sup>32</sup> 1 Sam 18:7.

<sup>33</sup> Jonah 1:17; 2:10.

<sup>34</sup> Dan 3:19–27.

<sup>35</sup> Dan 6:16–23.

<sup>36</sup> 2 Kings 22:13.

<sup>37</sup> Mark 1:4–6.

<sup>38</sup> Mark 5:1–15.

<sup>39</sup> John 11:43–44.

- This day was made for singing.
- All of human history has been building toward this moment.
- So, if people don't sing, the rocks will cry out.
- The KING is here, and so there will be singing!

So, that is what we are going to do here in this place today. We are going to sing!

- Our King has come.
- Our Savior is here.
- His presence means the enemy has been defeated.
- Satan has lost.
  - **Sin** does not have the final word.
  - **Shame** does not have the final word.
  - **Addiction** does not have the final word.
  - **Hopelessness** does not have the final word.

Jesus is here. He came. God kept His promise (like He always does<sup>40</sup>).

So, either God's people will sing...or the rocks will, but *somebody* is going to sing because this day (*and all that it means for those of us who know Jesus as our Savior*) ... it was made for singing.

**Let's Pray & then let's Sing.**

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<sup>40</sup> Num 23:19; Titus 1:2.