



LOUD STONES

Loud Stones Part 1

LOUDER Series

Palm Sunday Message 🌿

Psalms 118:21-26 (NKJV)

21 I will praise You,
For You have answered me,
And have become my salvation.
22 The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This was the LORD's doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save now, I pray, O LORD;

O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

Luke 19:37-41 (NKJV)

37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, 38 saying:

" 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!'

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

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

41 Now as He drew near [Jersusalem], He saw the city and wept over it,

Introduction

Happy Palm Sunday to everyone watching today. As we are celebrating, commemorating, remembering today, I want to remind you, as I often do, to "Be the Palm" waived and laid down in service to the Master's entrance into your life, your home, your community, your township, your world. Be willing to be an instrumental footnote in His grand plan and play a memorable part in what Jesus is getting ready to do.

I'd like to to take the time to invite you to be a part of our Easter Week activities. Don't miss our Virtual Tour of Christ's "Journey to the Cross" Premier this Wednesday Evening at 8pm. It'll be live in our app, website, Apple TV, Roku TV and Youtube. Be sure to share the links from the app and our social media pages so more people can be a part of it from ANYWHERE.

As we reflect on the happenings of the Triumphant Entry popularly known about Palm Sunday, it's easy to miss so many powerful elements of this historical account and make it all about the palms. We can forget about the long waiting colts that were tied waiting for the master's use. We can forget about the humility of Christ's entrance into the world and how he kept that same energy in this entrance into the city of Jerusalem. We can forget about the LOUD cries of Hosanna! But today, I want to direct your focus and attention to another critical part of the story that cannot be ignored.

Hidden in plain sight in the Book of Psalms 118 verses 21:26 is core of today's message Loud Stones!

The New Deliverer Is in Town

Jesus was journeying from Jericho (the "loud city of palms") where he healed blind Bartimaeus, spotted Zaccheus and got him to return all the money he stole, teach a parable on the Talents and in the same chapter prepare to ride into Jerusalem on an animal He didn't own, purchase or rent. Luke records that after the disciples retrieved the donkey and colt, they saddled the humble working steed with their garments (and not a king's saddle). Then the other multitude of disciples and followers took their clothes and laid them on the ground (instead of silk fabric for a king) and they also took the palm branches and laid them down on the ground for the King of Kings to ride in on. And the cries of Hosanna in the Highest were not the name of a king but rather a loud cry for The Messiah to come and save them.

Israel has needed deliverers in the past, from Moses to Jesus, there has been a prophetic lineage

pointing down through time to a future deliverer who would rescue Israel. And each finger has pointed to Jesus. He's the New Deliverer in town. And His Finger has pointed to no one else but The Father.

The cries of Hosanna in the Highest had divine overtones that bothered the Pharisees. *"Jesus, Son of David," the prophesied One; the "Deliverer sent from Glory," "Come and save us!" This cry is taken right out of the pages of Psalms 118:25-26, "howosiah-na" in the Hebrew is translated as 25 Save [us] now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.*

From this we see that **Hosanna is NOT a name but a message! 'Come and Save Us Deliverer from Glory'**

We now see why the Pharisees had a bigger problem with the cries from the multitude. And as they tried to tell Jesus to silence the crowd, as if to say "Jesus, surely you don't believe what the crowd is saying about you," Jesus replied by saying something quite chilling!

Luke 19:40 (NKJV)

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

Loud Headstones

We've often heard it preached that if we refuse to praise the Lord, that the very rocks would praise Him. Yet many churches have grown louder on stage, but quieter in the pews and the rocks have been perfectly comfortable being rocks and have not made any unexpected sounds as warned. And the reason for that is because Jesus was not speaking about rocks on the roadside.

The place where Jesus had now reached was described as the decent of the Mount of Olives; this is the same Mount of Olives where so many Divine encounters took place. And Jesus looked close by and saw a burial site when He said these bone chilling words. **"if the people stop crying out, these [headstones] will start crying out for their deliverer also!"** In other words, if the Jewish leadership and the nation refused to accept him (see Matt 23:37), God would bring to life those who had died (indicated by the visible gravestones that surrounded the Mount of Olives) to bear testimony to Jesus (19:37-40).

- The testimonies of those that have already died would have immediately cried out loudly from the grave while in the Presence of the King of Glory Himself!
- Why would they have cried out?
- Hosanna isn't a name! It's a message!
- It means "Come and Save Us"
- Why would the dead lift their voice for Jesus to come and save them, if the living had kept silent?

The Apostle Paul later explains it (so that we can have knowledge of the Scriptures)

- Ephesians 4:7-10 (NKJV) explains: 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?) 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

You see, It was approaching the time for Jesus to be glorified! He would soon be

- Arrested, flogged, disgraced, spat on, stripped, mocked, nailed to the cross pierced, seen by all, crucified, killed.
- The time of His death was coming
- The time of His march into the afterlife to go and get the waiting souls who were in Hades and lead them out!
- If the crowd had stopped crying out "Hosanna" " Come and save us!" The dead would have cried from their tombstones!

I need to interrupt this important explanation to give you a spoiler! Jesus completed His victorious march into the afterlife to deliver the waiting souls there! How do we know this?

Matthew's Gospel records this from many other eye witnesses:

Matthew 27:51-54 (NKJV)

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, **52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.** 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

John's gospel includes this when he is recalling the events of the Triumphant Entry

John 12:16-19 (NKJV)

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. 17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"

Listen we know that the testimonies and experiences of those that have died before us are powerful—especially from beyond the grave. Some our louder now than when they lived. But it isn't the dead that the Lord wants to speak up! It's the living! It's the ones who have been Born Again, the Ones who carry the Good News of this precious Gospel! It's us! The Lively Stones.

The Cry of Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4,9 (NKJV) ties this all back to Psalm 118

(Ps. 118:22; Is. 28:16)

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, **5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

Paul writes this:

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

While I still have breath in my body, I make the commitment to be a LOUD LIVING STONE proclaiming the praises of God in the Earth.

- I won't allow the dead to praise Him for me
 - I won't allow religious folks to silence me
 - I won't allow politics to distract me
 - I won't allow bothered folks to scare me
 - I won't let other structures speak for me
 - I don't need my ancestors to cry out instead of me
-
- I'll speak while I draw breath
 - I'll preach while I have strength
 - I'll declare Jesus while I have the opportunity
 - I'll sing about Him while I think about Him
 - I'll share what I know about Him

I will be a LOUD LIVING STONE for Him in life and yes even a LOUD HEADSTONE for Him. My testimony about the Lord whether in life or in death must be LOUD!