



PALM SUNDAY

It is a dangerous thing to approach God with a strict agenda. When we are entirely focused on seeking what we want, we will almost inevitably miss what God actually wants for us. Two thousand years ago, the crowds lining the streets of Jerusalem fell into this exact trap. They were desperate for a political savior to deliver them from the crushing tyranny of the Roman Empire. They rolled out the red carpet for a conquering warrior, but they failed to realize that while bad government can make life miserable, it cannot send you to hell—only sin can do that. They wanted a temporary fix; Jesus came to provide eternal justification.

In this powerful message, Pastor Steve takes us to the Triumphal Entry in Luke 19, contrasting the fickle expectations of the crowd with the steadfast purpose of the Savior. Jesus knew the exact price on His head. He knew that the same voices shouting "Hosanna" would be screaming "Crucify Him" just four days later because He refused to meet their political expectations. Yet, He rode forward anyway, offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice. This study challenges us to examine our own hearts: Have we fully submitted to the King of Peace, or are we just using Him to get the earthly deliverance we want?

Jesus moved toward Jerusalem with full foreknowledge that He would be mocked, scourged, and crucified. How does His willingness to face certain death demonstrate the depth of His love for you? (OT: Isaiah 50:7 | NT: Hebrews 12:2)

Study Questions:

1. Jesus rode a colt that had never been ridden, demonstrating full authority over the untamed. What is an "untamed" area of your life that you need to surrender to the authority of Christ today? (OT: Job 12:10 | NT: Colossians 1:16-17)
2. Palm branches were historically a sign of victory, triumph, and joy. Since Christ has already won the ultimate victory over sin, how should your daily attitude reflect that triumph? (OT: Leviticus 23:40 | NT: 1 Corinthians 15:57)
3. Praise does not remove our circumstances, but it changes our focus and perspective. How does focusing on the character of God shrink the perceived size of your current trials? (OT: Psalm 73:16-17 | NT: Hebrews 13:15)
4. Jesus came to make peace between man and God, not between man and government. In what ways are you trying to find ultimate peace in earthly systems rather than in the completed work of Christ? (OT: Isaiah 26:3 | NT: Romans 5:1)
5. When Jesus comes again, He will not be on a lowly colt, but on a white horse to judge and make war in righteousness. How should the sobering reality of Revelation 19 change the urgency with which we share the Gospel? (OT: Psalm 2:10-12 | NT: Revelation 19:11-16)