

The background of the entire page is a textured, golden-yellow color. At the top and bottom, there are stylized green palm fronds, each composed of several long, thin, pointed leaflets radiating from a central point. The fronds are positioned diagonally, with the top ones pointing towards the upper right and the bottom ones pointing towards the lower right.

# PALM SUNDAY CONFUSION

Luke 19:36-44

Bob Hamilton





1 Corinthians 15:3

1 Corinthians 15:4





## 2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped for every good work.**

## **Luke 19:36–38**

**As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting:**

**“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

## **Luke 19:39–40**

**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him,  
“Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” But Jesus answered,  
“I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”**



## **Luke 19:41–44**

**When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”**

**What purpose does  
God's Spirit have for  
moving Luke to include  
this account?**

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**Why were his disciples confused;  
why did they not understand what  
Jesus was telling them?**

**Why did the Pharisees oppose him?**

**How could Jerusalem reject their one  
real opportunity for peace?**

## Luke 4:16–18a

And He came to Nazareth, **where He had been brought up**; and as was His custom, He entered the **synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.**

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.**

## **Luke 4:18b–21**

**He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, **to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.**”**

**And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**”**



## Luke 4:22–24

And **all were speaking well of Him**, and wondering at the **gracious words** which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, **‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’**” And He said, “Truly I say to you, **no prophet is welcome in his hometown.**”

## Luke 4:25–29

But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet **Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon....** And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and **none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.**” And all the people in the synagogue were **filled with rage as they heard these things**; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, **in order to throw Him down the cliff.**

**What enraged these Jews, Jesus’  
“friends and neighbors”?**

**How could this rage result in  
threat of such violence?**

## Luke 11:37–41

A Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. But the Lord said to him, “Now you **Pharisees clean the outside** of the cup and of the platter; **but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.** You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? But **give that which is within as charity,** and then all things are clean for you.”

## Luke 11:42–44

“But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and **yet disregard justice and the love of God**; but these are the things you should have done **without neglecting the others**. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats **in the synagogues** and the respectful greetings **in the market places**. Woe to you! For you are like **concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.**”

## Luke 11:46–48

“Woe to you lawyers as well! For **you weigh men down** with burdens hard to bear, while **you yourselves will not even touch the burdens** with one of your fingers. Woe to you! For **you build the tombs** of the prophets, and it was **your fathers who killed them**. So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.”

## Luke 11:49–51

“For this reason also the **wisdom of God** said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, so that **the blood of all the prophets**, shed since the foundation of the world, **may be charged against this generation**, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; **yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.**’”

## Luke 11:52–54

“Woe to you lawyers! For you have **taken away the key of knowledge**; you yourselves **did not enter**, and you **hindered those who were entering**.”

When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees **began to be very hostile** and to question Him closely on many subjects, **plotting against Him to catch Him** in something He might say.



**Why did these adherents to the Law find Jesus so objectionable?**

**What was the big difference between these exemplary Jews and Jesus?**

**How should 21st-century  
Christians apply this  
passage on Palm Sunday?**

# **Consider these thoughts:**

- Are we more like Jesus or His opponents?**
- Are we guided by the letter or the Spirit?**
- Are there ways in which we can lead “sinners and publicans” into God’s peace?**
- Are we ready for the visitation of the Spirit of Christ?**