

The Road to the Cross...

The King Steps into the Light

We've spent weeks breathing the thin, exhilarating air of Moriah, Sinai, Carmel, and more. Yet, we must remember that the path to glory always winds through the shadows. Today, we begin at the beginning—not in the light, but in the long shadows of the Old Testament that point us toward the Hill of Calvary.

As Easter approaches, we're going to spend time looking at the "shadows" cast across the Old Testament. And, these aren't just stories. They are mile markers and a roadmap to a Savior promised long ago. Let's walk this road together.

For the past three weeks, we have been walking a dusty, ancient path together. We've looked at the foreshadowing in the Tabernacle, the prophecies of Isaiah's Suffering Servant, and the covenant promises made to David. Today, the road changes as the quiet anticipation of the Old Testament breaks into a shout. Today, we stand at the gates of Jerusalem for the Triumphal Entry.

- A historical and political power keg.
- A long-awaited Messianic expectation.
- A King steps into the Light.
 - The stop at Jericho -- Luke 19:1-10
 - The miracle at Bethany -- John 11:43-44
 - The bounty on His Head -- John 11:53

The Promised King

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

The Cry for Salvation

9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! 2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." 3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." 4 Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

5 Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. 6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? 7 The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

10 All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! 11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! 12 They

surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! 13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me.

14 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. 15 Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, 16 the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!" 17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. 27 The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. 29 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

The Preparation of the Spotless Lamb

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" John 12:12-13

7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7

During this Holy week, we are reminded that the world recognized Jesus as King and Messiah only to later reject Him as a criminal. But, God vindicates Him as the Lord of Life through the resurrection.

- **Monday & Tuesday:** Jesus cleanses the Temple and flips tables challenging the corrupt religious status quo
- **Wednesday & Thursday:** They ascend to the Upper Room, the washing of feet, the last supper, and He prays the heavy, blood-sweat prayers at Gethsemane
- **Good Friday:** The "Hosannas" turn to "Crucify Him!" The King who rode in on a donkey will be hung on a tree, paying the debt for our sins that we could never pay ourselves

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – God promised a Savior thousands of years before He arrived. Waiting is difficult, especially when our need is urgent. How does “waiting” refine you/your faith in God?

Tuesday – The people cried out for salvation from their temporary pain (Rome) instead of their eternal separation (sin). Why do we miss the bigger story and need vs. want in life and faith?

Wednesday – Jesus showed the world exactly who He is. He fulfilled the promises made as He rode into Jerusalem. He arrived to you in the same way. How did Jesus “ride” into your life? Where did you hear about Him and how did He make Himself known to you as Messiah, Savior, and King?

Thursday – Jesus is the Passover Lamb, spotless and pure, worthy of sacrifice to atone for our sins. Greater love has no one than He who would lay down His life for us. How does that land on your spirit? How should it shape how you respond?

Friday – Easter highlights this great story with Jesus as both the Spotless Lamb and the King of Kings. What do you love most about Easter? Are you inviting friends and family to join you here?