

March 24, 2019  
THE ROAD TO HOPE - Part 1  
"Palm Sunday"

We all hope death won't have the last word for our lives.

The Jews were increasingly watching for the coming of the Messiah (Hebrew) or the Christ (Greek), whom they believed would be an ancestor or Son of King David.

The Feast of the Passover raised Jewish nationalist fervor higher, because it celebrated Israel's escape from the Egyptians through the hand of God.

Palm Sunday - Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:29-44, and John 12:12-19

**Matthew 21:1-3** (ESV): "1Now when [Jesus and his disciples] drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them," and he will send them at once.'"

**In riding in on a donkey's colt, Matthew is showing us that Jesus is intentionally giving the people a prophetic Old Testament symbol.**

**Matthew 21:4-6** (ESV): "4This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5'Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them." (Isaiah 62:11, Zechariah 9:9)

**Matthew 21:7-9** (ESV): "7They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9And 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!'" (2 Kings 9:13, Psalm 118:26)

**When the crowds laid down their "cloaks on the road," they likely were offering their *only* cloaks as a sign of deep respect.**

**"Hosanna" means "Save now," but it had also become an exclamation of praise.**

**This was the kind of welcome that made the Romans nervous, and the Jewish religious leaders were also extremely concerned.**

**The crowd's expectations had morphed to match what *they wanted*.**

Jesus' plan, as the Messiah, the Son of David, King of kings and Lord of lords, wasn't to give us what we wanted but what we needed; it wasn't to conquer the *Romans* but win victory for us over *sin and death*.

The hope Jesus offers is ultimately not of this world, yet our road to hope has to go through Holy Week, just as Jesus' did - through his betrayal, beating, crucifixion and death to reach resurrection and life everlasting.

**Matthew 16:23** (ESV): "But [Jesus] turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'"

Brochure: "Prayer, Fasting and More"

THREE PURPOSES FOR THESE FOUR WEEKS:

- Personal Spiritual Renewal
- Revival of our Church
- Salvation of the Lost

OUR DISCIPLINES FOR TRAINING DURING THESE FOUR WEEKS:

1. Serve
2. Tithe
3. Worship
4. Read the Gospel of Matthew
5. Pray
6. Fast

Fasting is abstaining from food (typically) for spiritual purposes.

God is calling us to be a Gateway to hope for the Bay Area and beyond, but we can't be that on our own - we need God's Spirit working in and through us!

**Matthew 21:10-11** (ESV): "<sup>10</sup>And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'"

Next Week: Monday

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at [gateway-community.org/Find-it](http://gateway-community.org/Find-it)

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