SUNDAY

The Power of Choosing God's Path A Palm Sunday Reflection

The Path We Choose

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John 12:12-19

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!"14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

John 12:12-19

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

John 12:12-19

¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, **"You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."**

The Path We Choose

What happens when the dream or hopes we have differ from the plan God has?

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John 12:20-26

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:20-26

²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

-God's definition of success:

-a life of significance that garners the praise of God above the praise of man!

-God's path to success requires:
1) Surrender: (Allowing God to plant you where & when he determines) (vv. 24, 25, 26)
2) Suffering: (Embracing the process of death to self & sin coming through painful seasons so that the life of God can spring up) (vv. 24, 27)

-Success is: the esteem of God.

John 12:42-43

⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for **they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God**.

How many of us pass up on God's path because it doesn't match our path for success?

Would you rather have worldly success & esteem or kingdom significance & esteem?

Do you want them to experience Triumphal Entry or the cross & resurrection?

God's Path Leads to Power

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John 12:27-34

²⁷ "Now is **my soul troubled**. And **what shall I say**? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

John 12:27-34

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

God's Path Leads to Power

Power to Overthrow Satan's Authority (v. 31)

God's Path Leads to Power

Power to Overthrow Satan's Authority (v. 31)

Power to Draw People to Jesus (v. 32)

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