The Cross Road: From Hosanna to Alleluia

Main Text: Matthew 21:1–11 | **Prophetic Text:** Psalm 118:19–29

I. The Entry: The Cry of the Crowded Heart

- **The Context:** Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a warhorse of conquest, but on a donkey of peace (**Matthew 21:5**).
- **The Shout:** *"Hosanna!"* (**Matthew 21:9**). In Hebrew (*Hoshia-na*), this is not just a cheer; it is a desperate plea: **"Save us, please! Save us now!"** (**Psalm 118:25**).
- **The Reflection:** We often approach the "Cross Road" with **Corporate Needs** (world peace, economic stability) and **Individual Turmoil** (anxiety, broken relationships).
    - *Our "Hosanna" is a cry for rescue from our circumstances.*

II. The Intersection: Felt Needs vs. Actual Needs

- **The Conflict:** The crowd wanted a King to fix their political world. Jesus came to fix their spiritual foundation.
- **The Illustration:** We often ask for "cosmetic" fixes (paint and curtains) while Jesus addresses "structural" issues (the foundation).
- **The Quote:** *"God is not interested in merely 'fixing' our lives so we can go back to our self-centered ways. He is interested in bringing us into a glory that we haven't even dreamed of yet."* — **Timothy Keller**
    - *The "Cross Road" is where Jesus validates our pain but prioritizes our souls.*

III. The Foundation: The Rejected Stone

- **The Text:** *"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"* (**Psalm 118:22**).
- **The Reality:** The religious "builders" rejected Jesus because He didn't fit their blueprint for power.
- **The Seismic Shift:** When Jesus enters a life or a city, it is *seismic*—it shakes the things we've built our comfort on so that we can stand on the only Stone that cannot be moved (**Matthew 21:10**).
    - *What the world rejects, God uses as the foundation for our hope.*

IV. The Altar: The Journey to Victory

- **The Procession:** *"With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar"* (**Psalm 118:27**).
- **The Destination:** The Palm Sunday parade didn't end at a palace; it ended at a sacrifice.
- **The Exchange:** To get from **"Hosanna" (Save us!)** to **"Alleluia" (Praise the Lord!)**, Jesus had to become the sacrifice at the "horns of the altar."
    - *Our actual need was not a new King, but a Substitute.*

V. Conclusion: Walking the Road This Week

- **The Balance:** Jesus does not mock our felt needs; He meets them by curing the root cause.
- **The Goal:** Moving from asking "Save us from this trouble" to "Save us from ourselves."

- **The Promise:** The road to the cross was the road to our peace. Because of the Cross Road, our "Hosanna" is transformed into an everlasting "Alleluia."