

# Holy Week Devotional: From Hosanna to the Cross

## Day 1: The Danger of Misplaced Expectations

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11; James 4:1-10

Devotional: The crowds welcomed Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna," expecting a political deliverer. They weren't wrong to worship—they were wrong about what salvation meant. How often do we approach Jesus with our own agenda, expecting Him to serve our plans rather than surrendering to His purposes?

Take inventory today: Why do you worship Jesus? Is it for what He can give you, or because of who He is? When God doesn't meet your expectations, do you become resentful? True worship isn't conditional on circumstances. God's ways are higher than ours, and He orchestrates far more than our limited perspective can comprehend. This week, release your expectations and embrace His lordship. Submit to God, resist the devil, and draw near to Him. Let truth—not disappointment—shape your perspective.

## Day 2: Guarding Against Negative Influence

Reading: Mark 15:6-15; Proverbs 4:23-27

Devotional: In just five days, the same crowd went from "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him." What changed? The chief priests stirred them up, exploiting their disappointment. Disappointed people are easily directed. Confused people are easily convinced. Silent people are easily swayed.

Who or what is influencing your faith right now? Are you allowing cultural narratives, media voices, or disappointed emotions to stir up doubt? Proximity to Jesus doesn't equal loyalty to Jesus. You can be around worship, truth, and community yet still flip when things don't go your way.

Guard your heart diligently. If you don't let truth shape your perspective, culture will. Anchor yourself in God's Word this week. Read the Holy Week scriptures chronologically. Surround yourself with

believers who point you toward Christ, not away from Him. Choose to be anchored in Jesus, not just around Him.

### **Day 3: Moving from Savior to Lord**

Reading: John 15:1-8; Luke 9:23-26

Devotional: Jesus didn't come merely to improve your circumstances—He came to save you from sin and transform your life. Many want Jesus as Savior but resist Him as Lord. We want the benefits of salvation without the surrender of lordship.

Without Jesus, we can do nothing. This isn't harsh—it's liberating truth. When we recognize our complete dependence on Him, we stop trying to manipulate Him into serving our agenda. We stop playing shell games with our faith, pretending we're surrendered while secretly holding back control.

Today, ask yourself: Is Jesus my Savior only, or is He truly Lord of my life? What areas am I still trying to control? True freedom comes when we die to ourselves daily, take up our cross, and follow Him. His mission becomes our mission. His desires become our desires. This is the pathway from merely being saved to being truly transformed.

### **Day 4: Understanding the True Mission**

Reading: Luke 19:28-44; Isaiah 53:1-12

Devotional: As Jesus approached Jerusalem, He wept over the city. He knew they saw His miracles but didn't understand His mission. They wanted deliverance from Rome; He came to deliver them from sin and death. They expected a conquering king; He came as a suffering servant.

Are you seeing God's miracles in your life but missing His mission through your life? Every blessing, every answered prayer, every divine intervention isn't just about you—it's about the influence that flows through you to others. When we realize our story is part of His greater story, everything changes.

The miracles God performs in your life are meant to point others to Him. Your healing, your breakthrough, your transformation—these aren't endpoints but launching points for Kingdom influence. Stop being consumed with yourself. Ask God to show you how your story can become part of someone else's salvation story.

## **Day 5: Palm Sunday or Good Friday Believer?**

Reading: John 19:16-30; Luke 23:44-49

Devotional: The crowd that laid down palm branches became a handful who stayed at the cross. Most believers celebrate Jesus when they need something from Him. Few remain faithful when Jesus needs something from them. Which type of believer are you?

Palm Sunday believers are present for the celebration but absent for the sacrifice. They worship when it's convenient, when emotions are high, when expectations are met. Good Friday believers understand that true discipleship means staying close to Jesus even in the darkest moments—especially in the darkest moments.

As you prepare for Resurrection Sunday, examine your heart. Will you be there for Jesus when He calls you to sacrifice, to serve, to suffer for His name? True faith isn't measured by how loudly you shout "Hosanna" but by whether you'll stand at the foot of the cross when everyone else has fled. This Holy Week, commit to moving closer to Jesus every single day—not just on the mountaintop, but through the valley and to the cross.

### **Reflection Questions:**

How do our personal expectations of what God should do in our lives affect the authenticity of our worship and relationship with Him?

In what ways might we be guilty of wanting Jesus to serve our agenda rather than surrendering to His purposes, and how can we recognize this in our daily lives?

What is the difference between being around Jesus in proximity versus being anchored in Him, and which category best describes your current spiritual state?

How quickly can cultural influences and disappointed expectations turn our praise into resentment, and what safeguards can we put in place to prevent this?

The crowd went from shouting Hosanna to crucify Him in just five days. What does this reveal about the stability of emotion-based faith versus truth-anchored faith?

Pastor Mickey mentioned that the Jewish people expected Jesus to save them from Rome, not from their sins. What false expectations do we place on Jesus today that mirror this misunderstanding?

How does allowing religious leaders or cultural voices to stir us up compromise our ability to hear and follow God's voice clearly?

What does it mean that disappointed people are easily directed and confused people are easily convinced, and how have you seen this play out in your own spiritual journey?

Are you a Palm Sunday believer who celebrates Jesus when you need something, or a Good Friday believer who stays committed when Jesus needs something from you?

James 4 warns that asking with wrong motives means asking to spend on our own passions. How can we examine our prayers to ensure they align with God's kingdom purposes rather than our personal comfort?