

CITYWEST CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY 2024

SAVE NOW

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt. Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors **13** took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,

“Praise God!^[f]
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!
Hail to the King of Israel!”^[g]

14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

15

“Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem.^[h]
Look, your King is coming,
riding on a donkey's colt.”^[i]

16 His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

17 Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others^[j] about it. **18** That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. **19** Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone^[k] has gone after him!”

John 12: 12-19 (NLT)

Palm Sunday is the beginning of what is known as Passion Week or holy week.

It marks an important turn of events in the story and life of Jesus, he has been traveling around but he comes to Jerusalem, and the stakes are raised.

The Old Testament prophecies speak of a King coming to rescue the Jews from their captivity.

The verse from Zechariah is from 500 years earlier, it is well known by Jews and they are looking for signs of the saviour, the king that is going to come in and set them free.

People most likely would have preferred a general on a horse but they get Jesus riding on a donkey.

As we come to our first point for today we will see that Palm Sunday is the personification of the scriptures in Isaiah that makes it clear that God's ways are higher than our ways.

My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

9 *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

Isa 55:8-9 (NLT)

1. HUMILITY AND MAJESTY.

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

John 18:36 (NLT)

The scene of Jesus coming into Jerusalem riding on a donkey gives us a sharp paradox that makes us aware that Jesus is a king worthy of all majesty but at the same time there is a humility that is not found by any other king.

Jews were on the lookout for the messiah, the one who they thought would overthrow the Roman rule that was there at that time.

In his humility he didn't try to overthrow Roman rule, he was there to liberate much more than the rule of a brutal empire, in one era of time.

There was a far more brutal regime at work, one that passes through the generations, one that not just impacts you for a short time but also for eternity.

The power of sin through all generations.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

He was humble for being there in the first place. He has given up the divine privilege of heaven to come and be God's visible hospitality to mankind.

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. 9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil 2:6-11 (NLT)

2. THE PASSION OF JESUS.

Another name for this week is passion week for the passion that Jesus displays as he lives out his final week on earth as fully God and fully man.

His passion is on display for all to see. It's not his passion for himself but to do all the father has for him because he knows it leads to a divine welcome for all humanity if they would just take up the invitation from Jesus.

Palm Sunday signals the start of Holy Week for us as believers, but when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the city was on the cusp of the Jewish festival of Passover.

Passover is the Jewish festival to remember God's protection of the Israelite people when they were slaves in Egypt which led to them being set free from Egypt.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday Passover was just 4 days away. In Jewish calendars 4 days before Passover was the 10th day of the month.

At this point, it can come across that this is just a lesson in dates and times. But if we go back to the very first Passover in the book of Exodus we see God at work not just in one moment but through human history.

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: "From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: **2** "From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. **3** Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.

Exodus 12:1-3 (NLT)

In verse 3 we see that the people of Israel are to choose a lamb on the 10th day of the month and keep it aside until Passover.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey (fulfilling a prophecy over 500 years old) on the 10th day of the month.

The people shouting Hosanna, although they didn't know it, were choosing the perfect lamb Jesus, who would be the perfect and final sacrifice for all sin once and for all.

But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honour at God's right hand.

Hebrews 10:12 (NLT)

So Palm Sunday isn't just another event to add to your calendar, its a lesson in the passion of Christ. It is worth being marked each year for us to remember that we change and go up and down, but God he is and always has been the same. His plan is always the salvation of people.

3. THE RESPONSE OF HIS PEOPLE.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS.

Our response through Holy Week,

- 1. Will you call out Hosanna in your current circumstances?*
- 2. Will you allow Jesus to be your Passover lamb? He is but will you allow him to be in your life?*
- 3. Christianity is impossible without Christ. He is the king. You can't live holy without Jesus and all he has done.*