

HOSANNA!

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "SHOUT" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
03-29-26 / Palm Sunday*

Opening Prayer

- Pray that God would open our eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is, not for what we want Him to be.
- Ask the Lord to help us surrender any expectations we place on Him that don't match His gentle, peaceful, and sovereign kingship.

Ice Breaker

If you could have any fictional character show up as a surprise leader in a crisis, who would you pick and why? (Think movies like The Lego Movie, Free Guy, or Star Wars.)

Key Scripture

Matthew 21:9 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Sermon Summary

The crowd shouted “Hosanna!” as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, hailing Him as the long-awaited Messiah. However, many in the crowd projected their own expectations onto Jesus, wanting a political deliverer who would immediately overthrow Rome rather than the gentle, peaceful King who came to deal with the deeper problem of sin. In contrast to the coming Antichrist who will demand control through power and war, Jesus is the true King—fully in control, gentle, peaceful, holding all authority, and serving as the humble Savior who brings lasting spiritual peace.

Discussion Point 1: Projecting Our Expectations

Scripture: Matthew 21:9 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Point Summary: The Palm Sunday crowd was passionate and sincere in their shouts of “Hosanna” (which means “Save us, please!”), yet they misunderstood Jesus’ true mission. They wanted a political hero to fix their immediate problems with Rome, not realizing He came first to solve the sin problem through the cross. Like the crowd, we can sometimes create a version of Jesus that fits what we want instead of embracing who He really is.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways do people today (including ourselves) sometimes project personal or cultural expectations onto Jesus rather than accepting Him as He truly is?
2. How can we tell when we’re treating Jesus more like a “genie” or political solution than the gentle King described in Scripture?

Discussion Point 2: The True King vs. False Hope

Scripture: Matthew 21:5 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.* “See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Point Summary: Jesus entered Jerusalem exactly as prophesied—humble, riding a donkey, showing He is gentle, peaceful, and in complete control. While the crowd missed the full picture, Jesus was (and is) the perfect King who brings peace between us and God, and between us and others. In contrast, the Bible warns of a coming Antichrist who will impress the world with power, control, and false promises of peace. Jesus stands in total opposition: He is already holding all authority and will return as the victorious Servant-King.

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking at the contrasts between the Antichrist and Jesus (control vs. in control, harsh vs. gentle, war vs. peace, grasping power vs. holding authority, overlord vs. servant), which characteristic of Jesus do you find most comforting or challenging right now?
2. How does remembering that Jesus is already “in control” and “holding all power” change how we respond to scary or chaotic things happening in our world today?

Discussion Point 3: Recognizing the Real Savior

Scripture: Zechariah 9:10 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.* He will proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion will extend from sea to sea...

Point Summary: The salvation the crowd wanted that day was temporary and political, but Jesus offered something far greater—eternal spiritual salvation purchased at the cross. Before any political fix, He had to address our sin. Jesus is the singularly appropriate leader for our restless world because He is gentle yet powerful, peaceful yet authoritative, and humble yet sovereign. He has already come, and He is coming again.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you experienced Jesus bringing peace in your life in a way that went deeper than just fixing a surface-level problem?
2. Practically speaking, what does it look like for us as adults to make Jesus our “singularly appropriate leader” in everyday decisions, relationships, and worries?

Wrap-Up

The shouts of “Hosanna!” on Palm Sunday remind us that Jesus is the true King who came gently and humbly to save us from sin, not just to fix our circumstances. While the crowd misunderstood and later cried “Crucify Him,” we have the full story: Jesus went to the cross so we could experience real, eternal peace with God. He is in control, He is gentle, and He alone is worthy of our full trust—no matter what political or personal storms we face.

Challenge

This week, take time each day to pray the simple prayer “Hosanna—Save us, please!” but ask Jesus to save you in the ways *He* knows are best, not just the ones you want. Pay attention to any area where you’re projecting your own expectations onto Him. If your group or church has a current initiative like a Prayer Journey or special Easter preparation, commit to participating together as a way of fixing your eyes on the true King.

Closing Prayer

- Thank Jesus for being the gentle, peaceful, and sovereign King who came to save us from sin through the cross.
- Pray for our group to grow in recognizing and trusting Jesus as He truly is, especially when the world feels chaotic or when we’re tempted to look to other “saviors.”
- Ask God to prepare our hearts for the rest of the Easter season as we move from “Hosanna” to the cross and finally to “He is Risen!”

Handout

HOSANNA! Life Group Handout *First Christian Church (FCC), Warsaw, IN*

Key Verse to Memorize: Matthew 21:9 (CSB) Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Quick Reflections:

1. One expectation I sometimes place on Jesus that may not match who He really is:
2. _____ This week I will remember Jesus is _____ (gentle / in control / peaceful / holding all authority / servant) when I feel _____.

Action Step: Each day pray: “Jesus, Hosanna—save me please, in the way *You* know is best.”

Contrast to Consider: Antichrist: Seeking control | Harsh | Maker of war | Grasping for power
Jesus: In control | Gentle | Peaceful | Holding all power & authority | Servant

My Prayer This Week:
