

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Palm Sunday
“Palms to Passion”
Matthew 21:1-17
Drue Warner
3-29-26

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Matthew 21:1-17

SUNDAY - Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King (Matthew 21:1-11)

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, **gentle** (Matt. 11:28-29) and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 – 520 B.C. // one that no one had ever ridden – Mark 11:2, Luke 19:30, John 12)

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Psalm 118:25-26)

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

- **979 B.C.** - “Hosanna (Lord, save us)! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. **With branches in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar (i.e., the cross).** You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” – Psalm 118:25-29

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

MONDAY - Jesus at the Temple (Matthew 21:12-17)

¹² **Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there.** He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ (words of Isaiah 56:7) but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’” (words of Jeremiah 7:11)

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. (prophecy from Isaiah 35:5-6) ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?’” **(words of David in Psalm 8:2)**

¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

4 EVENTS IN THE 4 GOSPELS

1. Feeding the 5,000 (Compassion)
2. Walking on Water (Authority)
3. Triumphal Entry (Prophecied King, Humble Servant, Sacrificial Lamb, Worthy of Worship)
4. The Passion (Love, Savior, Substitute, Atonement)

OBSERVATION – Palms to Passion

- Triumphal Entry / Palm Sunday Great Celebration! (i.e., Olympics)
- Crucifixion Unimaginable Devastation
- Resurrection Unfathomable Elation

A lot like life. We never know what God is doing, but we can trust that it’s good.

THE PASSION – JESUS’ FINAL WEEK

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 19, John 12

A Day-by-Day Account

The following is a timeline of Jesus’ final week leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. There is much historical evidence that these events occurred during Nisan 8-16 (according to the Jewish calendar) or April 10-17 (according to the Roman calendar) in the year, A.D. 30.

Saturday, Nisan 8, A.D. 30 (April 9) - ANOINTING

Jesus travels to Bethany (from Ephraim) and has dinner at Simon’s house with Mary Magdalene, Martha, Lazarus (who Jesus raised from the dead), and the disciples. Jesus’ feet anointed by Mary. A woman anoints Jesus’ head.

Sunday, Nisan 9, A.D. 30 (April 10) – ENTRY (Kingship) / Lamb Selection Day

Jesus’ “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem, for what is now celebrated as “Palm Sunday.” Jesus weeps over Jerusalem and returns to Bethany.

Monday, Nisan 10, A.D. 30 (April 11) – JUDGMENT (Authority)

Jesus, being hungry, curses the fig tree because, though it had leaves, it did not have any fruit. Early in the morning, Jesus teaches in the temple daily. Jesus cleanses the temple of the money changers. Chief Priests fear Jesus and seek to destroy him.

Tuesday, Nisan 11, A.D. 30 (April 12) – SONSHIP (Deity)

Early in the morning, Jesus teaches in the temple. They questioned Jesus' authority, and Jesus responded by questioning them about King David referring to his descendent, the Messiah, as LORD (Psalm 110:1). Jesus predicts His death on the cross, and a voice from heaven is heard by all the people around affirming Jesus' words.

Wednesday, Nisan 12, A.D. 30 (April 13) - BETRAYAL

Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany. Judas contracts with the Pharisees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

- The value of a male was 50 shekels. The value of a slave or woman was 30 shekels (Lev. 27)

Thursday, Nisan 13, A.D. 30 (April 14) – PREPARATION (Washing, Communing, Instructing, Singing, Prayer)

Friday, Nisan 14, A.D. 30 (April 15) – CRUCIFIXION (Passover Lambs Sacrificed)

Saturday, Nisan 15, A.D. 30 (April 16) – DEVASTATION

Sunday, Nisan 16, A.D. 30 (April 17) – RESURRECTION

The Next 40 Days CONFIRMATION

Over the next 40 days, Jesus made many appearances (Acts 1:1-3) and was seen by a crowd of 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6). Jesus ascends into heaven (Luke 24:46-52, Acts 1:9-11).

CONCLUSION

Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday may cause many people to ask, "What's the big deal?" It actually was a very big deal. This was the beginning of the crescendo point of Jesus' 3 year ministry, 33 years of life on this earth, and of His eternal existence.

It's hard to imagine that from all eternity, this was a high point of the existence of the Son of God. This was a moment when he was being recognized and coronated as King one Lord, not only of the Jews, but of all creation.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. – Ephesians 1:3-4

Yet, in all of the majesty and splendor of this Palm Sunday coronation moment of King Jesus, He didn't come for the parade. He didn't come for the praise. He came for the pain, the suffering, and the execution... His own, for you and for me.

We'll revisit and reflect on all of that this week, with Maundy Thursday (Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples) and especially on Good Friday (Jesus' willing death and payment for our sins).

But, as we all know, Jesus' time on earth didn't end with execution. It ended with resurrection, exaltation, and ascension, and we'll celebrate all of that one week from today on Easter Sunday, the greatest day in the history of the world.

TONY CAMPOLO VIDEO "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frfZQVEEOwY&t=5s>