



Riverlife
BAPTIST CHURCH



PART 5 THE PALM BRANCH

SUMMARY

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Palm Sunday is the beginning of the Holy Week, and the beginning of the ultimate transfer of power.

Palm Sunday was originally the Passover, one of the Pilgrim feasts, and a time when the scattered people of God would make the journey home. As Jesus approached Jerusalem for His last Passover, He sees the mass of pilgrims as people lost, without a shepherd and in need of God. He laments and weeps, even fully knowing that the Father is about to bring about the solution. Palm Sunday is a time to recognise God, but know the price that needs to be paid for our salvation.

KEY PASSAGE

Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON MOMENT



<https://youtu.be/qR7pplIVG7s>



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NOTES

Matthew 21:1-11 is such a fascinating moment in time where everybody does the right thing for the wrong reason.

The crowd thinks Jesus is here to free them from oppression of Rome, that he is a king and prophet. They are right that Jesus is there to free them, but he is to free them from something greater.

When Jesus gets a donkey to walk towards Jerusalem, He is fulfilling a prophetic word in the Old Testament (Zechariah 9:9-13).

Zechariah mentions a King coming riding on a donkey to bring peace and set the oppressed free. The crowd on Palm Sunday would have seen this scripture coming to life before their eyes. They would have thought that Jesus was here to free them from Rome. The promises talk about being paid back double what they lost and Jesus' disciples would have thought the same. They even put cloaks on the donkey so Jesus wouldn't ride bare back on a donkey.

All the signs point to a King coming to save his people from their oppression.

However, reading the words of Luke 19:41-42, we see a few things:

- Jesus weeps over the people and the city for they cannot see what he has actually come to do.
- Jesus knows he is going to disappoint this crowd. In a few days they will be yelling crucify him instead of hosanna.
- Jesus has come to do something greater and yet he also knows it will disappoint the crowd.
- No matter how much praise is directed his way even though he does deserve it he is going to disappoint them all.
- As he walks down that road to Jerusalem, he can see both the Cross that is coming and the people who won't understand.
- But he also sees the resurrection as well the greater victory the crowd can't see.



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Disappointment

How many times do we take a step back from the Lord when we can't see what the bigger picture is of what he is doing in our life? Disappointment can lead to doubt and taking back control of areas in our life because we don't see things from an eternal or heavenly perspective.

We can be the crowd, praising the Lord, until things don't work out the way we thought in the natural, so we take a step back not seeing the bigger picture.

As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, dealing with our disappointment:

- Often we need to walk the road through disappointment, and our earthly perspective represented by the Cross, into a resurrected life.
- The way of the Cross – the way of Jesus – is to say 'yes' to His perspective and His life, not our own.
- Today, you may need to walk down that road again, knowing there is disappointment, but also knowing that what Jesus has for us is more than this moment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there areas in your life where you've experienced disappointment? Share them.
2. What things do you need to repent of where you have allowed disappointment to blind you from seeing what God is doing?
3. Where do you feel the burden of walking in the footsteps of Jesus? Spend time to hand these over in prayer and allow Him to lift this burden as look towards the grace in his death and the empowerment in His resurrection.
4. Knowing the true work that Jesus was accomplishing on the first Easter, what changes about how you worship and how you tell other people about him?