

First Baptist Church Merritt Island
April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday

Senior Pastor Titus Green
THE KING'S HOSANNA
Jesus Enters Jerusalem
Matthew 21:1-11

This morning, as we focus on several events that occurred in the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry, the natural place to start is with an event known as the Triumphal Entry of Jesus. It's the Sunday before the crucifixion of Jesus. The city of Jerusalem is filled with people who are preparing for the annual feast of Passover. Travelers from all over the known world are converging on the city to make their sacrifices at the Temple. But, one Traveler has come from beyond this world to offer Himself as the sacrifice that would take away the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Son of God, enters the city of Jerusalem on His mission to the cross. Look with me at Matthew's account of this powerful scene.

Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' " 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Jesus enters Jerusalem and the crowds are stirred to shout in praise. It's a scene of joyful celebration.

And there are two big things we need to see.

1. Jesus is the King

Before Jesus enters the city, He sends two of His disciples ahead of Him to get a donkey and its colt so He can ride them into the city. Matthew specifically says He did this to fulfill an Old Testament prophecy from Zachariah 9:9. That prophecy was just one of hundreds of prophecies about the Messiah of God. It said that one day The King would come to God's people. That King would bring peace to the nations. He would reign over all other kings and establish God's Kingdom on this earth.

And Jesus is sending an unmistakable message to everyone. He's saying, "I am the King." He's saying, "I am the One this world has been waiting for. The One who will reign forever over a Kingdom that will never end. I am your King."

So, on Palm Sunday, we behold our King. His name is Jesus. He's the eternal, all-powerful King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has no rival. No one and nothing can stop Him. He created this universe by His word, and He rules this universe by His unstoppable power.

- He rules over kings and presidents and nations.
- He rules over politics and wars and global economies.
- He rules over natural disasters and sickness and disease.
- He rules over all things.

Palm Sunday is the celebration of our King who came to us on a mission. That's the second thing we see.

2. Jesus is the Savior

As Jesus rides into the city, declaring Himself to be the promised King, the people get the message. They spread their coats on the ground and lay down palm branches. In the ancient world, that would have been like rolling out the red carpet for royalty.

Verse 9 says they cried out, ***"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"***

The word "Hosanna" means "save." So, this crowd celebrates the coming of the King and they call on Him to save them. But, for the most part, they don't even know what that means. They see Jesus as the King who would save them from Roman oppression and take them back to the golden age of David's Kingdom. But this is where the story of Holy Week takes a turn. Jesus came for a far greater purpose than the resurgence of a nation. He came to save us from the oppression of sin and Satan and death itself. He didn't come to take us back to David's Kingdom, He came to take us into God's Kingdom.

On this day, Jesus didn't come to take His seat on Israel's throne. He came to take our place at Calvary's cross. Jesus came to save, not in the way they most wanted but in the way we most needed.

So, as we celebrate Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entrance of Jesus, let's examine our hearts. Let us consider the King's Hosanna.

With that in mind, I want to ask Pastor Mark to come and lead us in a time of prayer.

- Do we truly embrace Jesus as our King?
- Are we willing to lay down our lives before Him?
- Do we rejoice in what He has done to save us?
- Is our heart filled with the King's Hosanna and all that it truly means?

Student Pastor Rob Jones
THE SAVIOR'S SORROW
Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem
Luke 19:40-44

As Jesus continues His journey into the city of Jerusalem, passing through the Mount of Olives, He knows that the crowd that was just singing His praises, proclaiming Him King, would soon change their tune. The attitude of the crowd would quickly turn against Him. Their praises would turn to ridicule. The very same crowd that would crown Him King would fade, and a crowd that would reject Him and crucify him would soon take their places.

Read with me in Luke 19:41-44, as Jesus draws near to Jerusalem and looks out over the city.

Luke 19:41-44

"And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'"

Notice Jesus' use of "stones" in the teaching here, to demonstrate an amazing truth. Look at Luke 19:40.

Luke 19:40

"He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'"

Jesus uses "stones" to demonstrate His worthiness of praise, whether mankind chooses to sing it or not. AND Jesus a few verses later uses "stones" to depict the destruction that results from rejecting His truth, grace and salvation.

1. How gracious God is to include us in singing His praises, because it is just as true whether we open our mouths or stay silent.
2. May we share the sorrow of our savior, and may our hearts break alongside of His, for the lost in our city.
3. May the Holy Spirit empower us to boldly share the hope and love of that compassionate Savior and tell our city about His grace and salvation.

Executive Pastor Carey Dean
THE SON'S HUMILITY
Jesus Reveals His Glory
John 12:20–28

We've just sung words that did not originate from us, but from the heart of Christ Himself: *"Thy will be done."* Let's step into the moment on this Palm Sunday where those words, *"Thy will be done"* began to take shape.

John 12:20–28

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida (Beth-say-uh-duh) in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. 27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

1. The Agony Begins Here

We often imagine Jesus' anguish beginning in the garden. But it begins here in the heart of Jerusalem's' Passover preparation. Before the cross is built, before Gethsemane's sweat falls like blood, before a single nail pierces His hands, Jesus says: *"Now is My soul troubled."*

The cross is no longer approaching. It has arrived. Then He speaks the words Redemption had been waiting for. *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."* This is the first time He says it. Not *"The hour is near."* But *"The hour has come."* What changed? The Greeks have come seeking Jesus. And in that moment, He knows Jew and Gentile are now gathered both present for the unveiling of their true Passover Lamb. The hour has come for redemption's price to be paid.

2. The Seed Must Fall

Jesus reveals to His disciples the road He must walk, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies; it remains alone." (v. 24) This is the Son's humility: Jesus becomes the seed, falling to earth, buried, alone. His purpose was clear: To glorify His Father by laying down His life—so the world might be saved. Redemption came through His humility. Glory was revealed through His surrender. And now, through faith, He lives in us, still walking the road of surrender, bearing fruit through death, and shining light into the darkness so that the Father may be glorified in us.

3. The Call to Follow

The promise the disciples heard on that Palm Sunday remains effective for us today: *"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also."* This is our entry into

Holy Week. Not as spectators, but as seeds firmly rooted and built up in Christ. Because we know next Sunday we'll proclaim with joy, "*He is risen!*", we can surrender today with hope's confident expectation. So, this morning let our prayer echo His: "*Father, glorify Your name.*" Will you step into this week clothed in the humility of Christ? With death to self, glory to God, and life that follows.