

Theme: On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where He was recognized as the Messianic King.

I. Palm Sunday

- A. Christians all over celebrating Palm Sunday today
- B. One of the most well known Christian days
- C. But I have never taught on it at BRCC!
- D. This was a key moment in life of Jesus
 - 1. It begins his final week before his death
 - 2. It is a crowning moment in His life
 - 3. It is covered by all 4 Gospels!
- E. What is Palm Sunday? How does it fit in story?

II. Palm Sunday - Jesus' Triumphal Entry

- A. Jesus plans a grand entrance into Jerusalem
 - 1. A grand entrance from the high ground
 - As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, Matthew 21:1
 - a. Mount of Olives high ground overlooking Jerusalem
 - b. Two photos showing Olives high above Jerusalem
 - 2. A grand entrance riding as the King
 - 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, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." Matthew 21:1-3

- a. Riding a donkey colt? Is that really grand? Yes!!
 - b. Most pilgrims are walking, not riding
 - c. More importantly - it is fulfillment of prophecy
 - This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" Matthew 21:4-5
 - 1. Jesus is fulfilling prophecy of riding on donkey colt
 - 2. This is the action of the King coming to Jerusalem
- B. Jesus begins His grand entrance
 - The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. Matthew 21:6-7
 - 1. The disciples find the donkeys and bring them back
 - 2. The disciples place their cloaks on for the King
 - 3. Jesus begins to ride in as the King
 - C. People respond to the coming of Jesus
 - 1. The disciples begin to praise God for the miracles
 - When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: Luke 19:37
 - 2. The crowd on the way spreads cloaks and branches
 - A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8
 - a. Laying a carpet on the path for the King

- b. John tells us they were Palm branches
- c. Picture of road down Mount of Olives

3. The crowd hails the Jesus

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!” “Hosanna in the highest!” Matthew 21:9

- a. People often greeted arriving pilgrims
- b. Psalm 118 (quoted here) was used in pilgrimage to Jerusalem
- c. Simon Maccabaeus has been greeted as conquering king with palm branches and cheers (1 Maccabees 13:51)
- d. But this is far more - greeting the Messianic King!

D. The crowd greets Jesus as the Messianic King

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1. “Blessed is He who comes” - Psalm 118 messianic

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;²³ the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.²⁴ This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.²⁵ O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.²⁷ The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. Psalms 118:22–27

- a. Used for pilgrims to festivals
- b. Apparently also used at enthronement of kings

- c. Note Messianic text- stone builders rejected
- d. O LORD save - in Aramaic - “Hosanna”
- e. Blessed is he who comes
- f. Festal procession with boughs in hand

2. Other acclamations by the crowd for the Messiah

- a. Hosanna to the Son of David (Matthew 21:9)
- b. Blessed is the King of Israel (John 12:13)
- c. Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our father David (Mark 11:10)
- d. Blessed is the King Who comes in the name of the Lord (Luke 19:38)
- e. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest (Luke 19:38)

3. Jesus is being greeted as the Messianic King!

4. No wonder the city was stirred (Matthew 21:11)!

III. Palm Sunday - The Other Response

A. This is truly a stirring scene!

- 1. A festive crowd descending the mountain
- 2. Messianic themes being displayed all about
- 3. The miracle working prophet has come
- 4. The Messiah is arriving!

B. The Pharisees - dismay at these words!

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" ⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." Luke 19:39–40

1. They understand what is being proclaimed - and do not like it!
2. They tell Jesus to make the people stop - tell them it is not true
3. Jesus tells the Pharisees if the people stop praising Him, the stones will cry out. The King has come, and He will be praised!

C. The Pharisees - dismay that the world acclaims Jesus
So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:19

D. The paradox of Palm Sunday and Good Friday

1. Jesus was never more acclaimed and received than on Palm Sunday
2. Yet within a few days He would be abandoned and crucified, with the same crowd calling for His blood
3. This is because the crowd misunderstands this King. They think He comes to destroy the Romans and to restore political power to Israel, but He has no such purpose, for His kingdom is spiritual and is not limited to Israel. They think He will reign from a throne, while in fact He will reign from the cross! When this becomes apparent, the same ones who welcome Him will shout "Crucify!"
4. And the same challenge faces all today - we must receive the King and His kingdom as they are - not as we would remake them!

IV. Applying the Word - Receiving the King

A. Receive the King Who has come!

1. Today I proclaim - the long awaited King has come!
2. The True Man has fulfilled God's call, the Lion has roared, the Ox has been sacrificed, the Eagle has landed on our world! Behold the King has come! Hosanna!
3. Do you hear the voice of the multitude who has tasted the miracles that Jesus has wrought? Do you hear those He has raised from spiritual death? They have marched for over two millennia through all ages and cultures, and they proclaim "The King has come!" Join the festive throng and worship the King!

B. Come to the Table of the King

1. The King is seated on the Throne and has spread the feast
2. He invites you to come, to taste and see, to feast on the riches of the Kingdom
3. Come to the Table of your King

Palm Sunday - Blessed Is the King

Matthew 21:1-11

March 29, 2015

Communion

1 Timothy 1:17

Teaching keywords: Lent, Christology, Kingdom of God

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our great King. Go in His blessing. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17

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⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 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!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

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.” Matthew 21:1–11