

# PALM SUNDAY

(How The Triumphal Entry Minsters To Us Today)

Matthew 21: 1-22



## **Palm Sunday Reveals**

- ◆ The Passion of Jesus
- ◆ The Priority of Jesus
- ◆ The Purpose of Jesus

**“Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.” (Matthew 21:9)**

**Bill Kirk**

# "THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF PALM SUNDAY"

**Text:** Matthew 21:1-22

**"Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest." (Matthew 21:9)**

## Introduction

**Fact:** All four Gospels record the events surrounding Palm Sunday.

◆ Matthew 21:1-16 ◆ Mark 11:1-19 ◆ Luke 19:28-48 ◆ John 12:1-19

**Fact:** Matthew records the cleansing of the Temple.

**Fact:** Mark records the withering of the fig tree.

**Fact:** Luke records the tears that flowed from Jesus.

**Fact:** John records the quiet supper hour in Bethany.

- ◆ All surrounding the final six days before crucifixion.
- ◆ All surrounding the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

## Questions With Answers

1. Why did Jesus ride into town on a donkey days before His crucifixion?
2. Why did Jesus do what He did when He came into Jerusalem?
3. What did Jesus do on Palm Sunday that speaks to us today?

## The Night Before

**Fact:** Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entry really begins the night before.

**Fact:** John records that the Palm Sunday entrance is preceded by a quiet dinner in Bethany.

**Fact:** John 11:53, 57 reveals that the Jewish leaders want to arrest and kill Jesus.

**Fact:** Yet, Jesus returns to Bethany (only two miles from the home of His enemies).

**Question:** Why is Jesus found in Bethany so near to danger?

**Fact:** Mark 14:3 records that Jesus is in the home of Simon the leper whom Jesus healed.

## It was a moving scene.

1. A woman named Mary broke an alabaster box of ointment.
2. She undid her hair (which Jewish women never did in public).
3. She then poured the ointment upon the head of Jesus (ointment that cost one years' worth of wages).
4. She took her hair and wiped Jesus' feet with her hair and the ointment.
5. John 12:3 records that, "The house was filled with the odor of the ointment."
6. Judas said don't waste this ointment, but Jesus said "Leave her alone" and He said, "Wherever you preach the gospel, tell of the worship of this woman."
7. Her devotion was commended by Jesus (Why?)
  - ◆ It was **spontaneous!** ◆ It was **sacrificial!**

## The Triumphal Entry

**Fact:** The Triumphal Entry took place at Passover season.

**Fact:** This was a time of delight for the Jews (and despair for the Romans).

1. Thousands of Jews would come to the Holy City.
2. Roman military units would be on alert.
3. For 2 to 3 weeks, over 2 million people would pitch their tents in Jerusalem.
4. They would celebrate the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
5. It was now that Jesus would fulfill the prophecy that the Lamb of God be crucified.
  - ◆ He knew His time had come.
  - ◆ He knew the rulers would act.
  - ◆ He knew the leaders would cry out, "We have no king but Caesar".

**Question:** What exactly does Palm Sunday reveal about Jesus?

**Question:** And, what does it have to do with me?

## **I. Palm Sunday Reveals the "Passion" of Jesus**

Luke 19:41 records "And when He was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it."

### **Remember**

1. Jesus is on the road from Bethany to Bethpage then to Jerusalem.
2. The road is 2,600 feet in elevation, with a breath taking view of Jerusalem.
3. Jesus looks at the city \_\_\_\_\_ and says, "If only you had known."  
(where you live)

**Fact:** Jesus saw the people. (He beheld them)

**Fact:** Jesus drew near to the people. (He came close)

**Fact:** Jesus wept for the people. (He expressed deep feeling)

**Question:** Why did Jesus weep tears on this day?

1. Jesus was agonizing over Jerusalem!
2. It was a time of heartfelt compassion!
3. It was a time of lost opportunity!
4. It was a time of expression over human infirmity!
5. It was a time of deep regret!

### **Because of what Jerusalem might have been...**

- ◆ They could have been saved
- ◆ They could have been healed
- ◆ They could have been restored
- ◆ They could have been at one with Jesus!
- ◆ But they missed the One who came to save them!

### **And the tears**

- ◆ Reveal the passion, love and feelings toward us.

### **Remember**

1. He saw then, and He sees you this hour.
2. He drew near, and He draws nigh this hour.

3. He wept, and He feels today as He did then.

## II. Palm Sunday Reveals the "Priority" of Jesus

**Fact:** In John 2:13-17, Jesus cleansed the temple during His first Passover.

**Fact:** Now, 3 years later, the religious leaders permitted the merchants to return.

**Fact:** The clutter and distraction has returned to corrupt the temple of God.

**Question:** Is there any clutter that has returned to your temple?

**Question:** Any debris that needs to be removed from your temple?

**Question:** Anything trying to gain ground and return (things that are not God's plan for you?)

### **Palm Sunday Reveals Three Priorities**

#### **Priority #1: A Pure Heart** (Or removal of enemy distractions)

**Question:** What happened in the temple and why was Jesus upset?

**Answer:** The leadership had turned the court of the Gentiles into a place where foreign Jews could exchange money and purchase sacrifices.

- ◆ But what began as a service and convenience for visitors had now turned into a business venture.

#### **Here's what happened:**

1. The "Court of the Gentiles" in the Temple was to give people opportunity to enter the temple and learn about God.
2. The services were needed by the Jews. (Why?)
3. Jews would carry sacrifices to the city and the sacrifice could be rejected if it was blemished.
4. The Jews would then need to purchase a sacrifice to offer.

#### **But the problem was**

1. The dealers were charging exorbitant prices and no one could compete with them!
2. The missionary place turned into a market place.
3. It became big business (and right in the temple).
4. Merchandising took the place of ministry.
5. Business deals were distracting from God's intended purpose.

**Question:** Is there any intrusion distracting you in your walk with God?

**Question:** Is there any intrusion that Jesus needs to "drive out" this day?

#### **Priority #2: A Praying Heart** (Or a renewal of personal discipline)

- ◆ Jesus said, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." (Matthew 21:13)

**Fact:** Prayer is the evidence of our absolute dependence upon God.

**Fact:** Prayer is the thermometer of our spiritual life.

**Fact:** Prayer is the breath of the soul.

**Fact:** Prayer is the conversation of the soul with God.

**Fact:** Prayer is the attitude and the spirit of communion.

**Fact:** Prayer is taking hold of God's strength.

**Fact:** Prayer is my spirit panting after God.

**Fact:** Prayer is the highest privilege of the believer.

### **What is a "House of Prayer"?**

1. A place that is pervaded with an atmosphere of prayer.
2. A place where people gather in the spirit of prayer.
3. A place where "business transactions" and "money changing" takes a back seat to an audience with Jesus.

**Priority #3: A Powerful Heart** "And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them." (Matthew 21:14)

### **Palm Sunday reveals two things**

1. People should feel welcome in the house of God. (V. 14 – they came to Jesus)
2. People should find help in the house of God. (There was power to meet needs)
  - ◆ Power to restore to wholeness!
  - ◆ Power to heal sick people!
  - ◆ Power to remove besetting sins!
  - ◆ Power to change us dramatically!
  - ◆ Power to grow a healthy soul!
  - ◆ Power to lift the downcast heart!

### **III. Palm Sunday Reveals the "Purpose" of Jesus**

**Question:** What was the response of the people when Jesus entered Jerusalem?

**Answer:** "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Matthew 21:9)

**Question:** Is praising God to be an active part of my life?

**Answer:** "All the city was moved." (21:10)

1. Garments were taken off and spread before Jesus.
2. Palm branches were waved in a victory salute.
3. Praising (without reservation) took place.

### **Why all the fuss?**

1. When a general was victorious on foreign soil, he was welcomed with an official parade.
2. If he slew at least 5,000 of the enemy and gained new territory, he was honored with a procession.
3. The general rode in a golden chariot while the priest would burn incense in his honor.
4. The people would shout the general's name with joy.
5. The general would display his captured enemies.
6. It was a gala celebration in honor of the one who conquered and triumphed.

**Fact:** Israel was praising because they believed Jesus would defeat the Romans and set Israel free.

## Their response? "Hosanna in the highest!"

**Question:** Has Jesus slain the enemy of our souls?

**Question:** Has Jesus conquered territory in your life?

**Question:** Has Jesus done for you what no earthly general could do?

- ◆ Then how do we respond? "**Hosanna!**" From a grateful heart of praise!

### The morning after:

**Fact:** Jesus lodged out in the city of Bethany (V.17).

**Fact:** The next morning He returned into town (V.18).

**Fact:** And Jesus reveals to us that worship is more than shouting and dancing.

### Oh, what a lesson.

**Fact:** In verse 18, Jesus was hungry.

**Fact:** In verse 19, Jesus expected fruit but found nothing but leaves.

**Fact:** Jesus spoke and the fig tree withered away.

### What's the big deal?

1. The fig tree symbolized Israel as a nation.
2. Just as the tree had leaves but no fruit, so Israel had a show of religion but no practical Christian living.

**Fact:** Jesus wasn't angry at the tree!

**Fact:** He simply used the tree to teach us His purpose for us:

### What is it?

Leaves usually indicate the presence of fruit, but this wasn't the case.

### And I discover

1. That what is **fruitless** is **worthless!**
2. That God wasn't concerned about Israel's **professions** but with her **possession**.

### In other words

1. If my worship isn't followed by my **obedience**, I'm only impressing those who hear me praise. I'm not impressing the One who really matters.
2. It's not how loud I praise, it's how **obedient** I walk after I praise.
3. If my **worshipping** is not affecting my **walking**, then it's not worship that is acceptable to God. **(It's nothing but leaves)**

### Remember this:

1. Leaves can make a lot of noise in the wind, but its fruit that gives life to someone else.
2. Leaves can make a lot of motion but its fruit that sustains and strengthens people.
3. Leaves can cover a lot of space, but its fruit that reveals the true condition of the tree.

Amen!  
Bill Kirk