

## Sunday 9

### PALM SUNDAY – HERE COMES THE GOSPEL

*Proverbs 24:11-12*

*Rescue those being led away to death;  
Hold back those staggering toward slaughter.  
If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,”  
Does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who guards your life know it?  
Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?*

Palm Sunday is the day when Jesus entered into Jerusalem for the last time. On several occasions, He had come to this city to fulfill His responsibilities as a good Jew. Now He came to fulfill His promise as the Great Messiah.

The verse that was read today from the book of Proverbs is important to understand in light of that day when Jesus entered Jerusalem. The reason is that Jesus had taken upon His shoulders the responsibility of “freeing those who had been led away to death” by sin going all the way back to Adam and Eve and what we call “original sin.” He intentionally took on the humble act of riding a donkey. His mission was not to conquer but to free.

#### I. THERE COMES THE GOSPEL – Hosanna to the Son of David!

*Matthew 21:9 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”.*

It was an Eternal Declaration

As Jesus entered into Jerusalem, the multitude received Him with great cheer! Their shout was Hosanna! It was a shout of welcome to the Son of David. It was an eternal declaration and not simply a momentary emotional outburst. Much like us, when Jesus comes to our lives, it should be for eternity not just a momentary event.

They were shouting that in the person of Christ, the message of the Gospel had been incarnated (become human) and that they could point to the one who had the power

to free them from death. Hosanna literally means “*Save us!*” It is the hope that someone who knows that his or her life is condemned to die has. It’s about salvation.

### It was the Correct Declaration

Even though they thought that Jesus was going to be an immediate help, the truth is that He had come to save them from the future danger of eternal death. That is the main message of the gospel. Of what good is it to serve with gladness for a moment, if their eternal destiny only assures them of misery and eternal pain? Same with us, we may be excited for life’s short lived victories but fail to see that God’s plan has eternity in its sight.

## II. THE COMING OF JESUS IS SO IMPORTANT THAT THE ENTIRE CITY IS SHAKEN

*Matthew 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem; the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

### The City Stopped When Jesus Arrived

*“This is He!”* Without a doubt, the man on the donkey was Jesus! The people were hungry for someone. Someone who would give them hope. Someone who they could admire, even if it were for a moment. Jesus had ability to stop a whole city when He arrived. Even now, you see how people are hungry for someone to make them feel good. Unfortunately, they are like rising stars, here today gone tomorrow.

Ask the different people in your group about these “stars,” see who remembers them: Elvis Presley, Andy Griffith, Selena, Hanna Montana, Barney (the children’s show), Fonzie, Macgyver, Mia Hamm, Ringo Starr, Dolly Parton, Celine Dion, Kenny Rogers, Arthur (the kids show), Arthur Ashe, James Silas, Henry Cisneros, Dennis Rodman, Cyndi Lauper, Tone Loc. That’s a lot of random names. How many knew who they were?

### More than the Palm branches and Cheers

Did you notice that that passage only says who Jesus is and nothing more? *Jesus, the prophet, from Nazareth*. Why is that? The reason for this is that nothing else should be added to the name Jesus. His name says it all, "Savior". For that reason today we can see beyond the Palm branches and the cheers of that day 2,000 years ago. When you learn to trust completely in His Name, it doesn't matter what else happens around you. You can be sure that the Savior is with you always.

We can wave palm branches and cheer loudly, but if the essence of who Jesus is escapes us, we will dishonor the purpose of His coming to this world. He came to set us free from death and save us from the danger of an eternal death. The people in Jerusalem didn't understand that. They were caught up only in that moment. Be careful you don't get caught up in the moment.

III. WE HAVE TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS: WE CANNOT SAY, "WE DID NOT KNOW"

*If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?*

*Proverbs 24:12*

If you don't, someone else will declare it

When they saw the people cheering, the Pharisees became upset with Jesus because of what was going on with the people and they asked Him to make them stop. Jesus responded that if they stopped, the stones would speak. How strange. But Jesus was making a point. The gospel message cannot be quieted!

When Jesus is present, someone will have to raise his or her voice. For the author of Proverbs, the responsibility of announcing the arrival of the Savior is placed upon those who know that He's the remedy for death. They cannot nor should they be quiet. It must be announced. Once you've met Jesus you mustn't stop, you must share the good news of His arrival.

Silence is not an Option

For a church that serves the *“one who weighs the hearts”* (that is, God the Father), silence is not an option. Every time that the church meets in the church’s sanctuary or in the home, *“he who looks out for your soul, will know you.”* Will Jesus be spoken of? Will Jesus be celebrated? Will Jesus be given the opportunity to “save” someone else just like he saved you?

That challenge has already been made. Jesus made a public and triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. The city knew it, the people announced it, Proverbs 24:11-12 was answered. The answer is “Silence is not an Option”.

#### CONCLUSION:

He will pay man according to his works!

The palm branches and the cheers should not stay within the church. Let us take the palm branches and the cheers to the streets of our city. Let us make known that Jesus is coming through our community, a through our homes.

God’s rewards are awesome once we understand that when a sinner repents, there is a party in heaven because someone else was set free from death. Jesus did not come into Jerusalem in order to be shouted at. He came into Jerusalem in order to declare that God’s love had arrived! – There comes the Gospel! Why don’t you take time to celebrate that Jesus has come into your home!

Hosanna!

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP

1. – What does this say to you about God?
2. – What does it say to my life?
3. – What does it say about others?

