

Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

On Palm Sunday we share the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We see that Jesus is the master of his destiny as he instructs his disciples to secure a colt for him to ride. Such an entry was more than an act of humility, but in all actuality befitting of a king who seeks to bring peace to the city. Of course, there are others who have their own ideas of how to secure the peace, which ultimately will lead to the destruction of the city. Rather than trusting in God's wisdom they have chosen to act in accord with their own designs and desires.

Theology Connection:

All too easily we leap from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the triumphal resurrection from the grave. We are asked to remember that Jesus knows exactly what awaits him, and yet in obedience to God's path marches resolutely forward towards his passion. He enters this city as a king, and he will depart on Easter as a king, but it is his passion that reveals him to be a servant-king. His love for his people, unlike most kings, is greater than his desire to preserve himself.

Application:

This is a good time to read the rest of the story. It might be helpful to commit to reading one chapter per day starting with Chapter 19 on Monday. Take time to reflect upon the story that is being told. Try not to simply understand but allow it to become God's personal message to you. Don't be limited by what you know, but let the Spirit utilize the text as a way to open your eyes and pray that you might see the God whose appearance is often missed by the world.

The Text: Luke 19: 29-44

²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷When 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:

³⁸"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹Some 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."

⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you, and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

ADULT

We have grown up waving palms as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The palms being strewn along the path were reserved for a royal procession. Maybe we might want to imagine how we might welcome this king into our homes this week? Knowing who he is and what he values, what are the ways that we might make him feel comfortable in our homes? Is there a way that we might throw down a few 'palms' to welcome this servant-king into our lives?

YOUTH

Please read Luke 19:29-44

So, what was happening here? The people gathered and cheered for Jesus. Some versions of the story use the word "Hosanna" which means "save us." The people wanted someone who would save them from the cruel Roman oppression. They hoped Jesus would deliver them. Of course, He would save them from sin, but not quite, how they expected.

Do we ever do this? We might hope God answers our prayers a certain way, but His methods are sometimes a little different.

Temple leaders tried to get the people to be quiet. But what does Jesus say? If they didn't cry His praises, the rocks would! We can't let the rocks take our place, can we? We know and celebrate that Jesus came to save us and give new life.

As we celebrate Holy Week, why don't we think about some ways we can praise Him and tell others about Him?

Let us pray: Dear God, thanks for sending Jesus to save us. Please give us peace when our expectations are not always met. In Jesus name we pray: Amen.

CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize:

Jesus and His disciples travelled to the city of Jerusalem. All the Jews wanted to go there for the special Passover celebrations. When Jesus and His friends came to a village just outside of Jerusalem, Jesus stopped to talk to them. He asked two of them to do a special job. "Go into the village and you will see a donkey and its colt. Bring the colt to me. If anyone says anything or tries to stop you then just say: 'the Lord needs it'."

So, the two disciples went into the village and guess what they saw? There was a donkey and a colt just as Jesus said! They untied the colt and began to walk away. Some people were standing nearby, and they called out, "Hey, what are you doing with that colt?" The disciples said just what Jesus told them to say and the people let them go. When the disciples arrived back to the place where Jesus was, they put their cloaks on top of the colt and Jesus began to ride into Jerusalem.

This was especially important, because many years ago, one of the prophets said that the king would come riding a donkey. People began shouting praises, "Hosanna to the son of David!" Some of the people threw down their cloaks so that the feet of Jesus' donkey didn't even have to touch the dirty road. Some people picked up palm branches and waved them.

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. What is your favorite part of the story?

Pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for being the Almighty King!

Amen.