

“The King Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”

Palm Sunday 2020

Luke 19:35-40

Today is Palm Sunday. It is the beginning of what is known as Holy Week. Holy Week is a week set apart from all others. It was the week when our God and Savior came to Jerusalem, which means the *“city of peace,”* and died for our sin and guilt so that we could have peace with God.

As our Lord Jesus came into Jerusalem on that Sunday, the disciples and the people gave Him a royal reception. The prophet, Zechariah, foretelling the Messiah’s arrival 500 years beforehand, said: *“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey”* (9:9).

Some were celebrating the fact that Jesus was the Messiah who would overthrow the Roman government and the corrupt Jewish authorities, and usher in the kingdom of God. Others were celebrating the miracles that Jesus had performed, and was anticipating Him doing many more. There may have been a few people there that day who truly understood the significance of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem. Why is Palm Sunday so significant? Palm Sunday is significant because:

1. Jesus was bringing joy and peace (19:37-38)

“...The whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had

seen: ‘The King who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.’”

- We do not know how many people were there that day to greet Jesus, but from the gospel accounts, it seems like there were a lot of people, including children. The people gave Jesus a royal reception because they believed that He was the long-promised Messiah. They showed their respect by throwing their robes on the ground, giving Him the “red carpet” treatment. They waved palm branches at Jesus (Matthew 21:8; Mark 11:8), and quoted Messianic scripture (Psalm 118:26). They were joyful that Jesus had arrived for Passover.
- They were joyful because of the miracles that He had performed. He had opened the eyes of the blind men, he had healed ten lepers, and had raised Lazarus from the dead. They were joyful that He would do more miracles. They were joyful that He would bring peace to their troubled city and lives. Jesus would tell His disciples, who were troubled, *“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful”* (John 14:27).
- Jesus gives peace to you today. His peace comes through His Holy Spirit. When you submit to the Spirit’s leadership, He gives you joy and peace. He gives you courage and confidence that He is with

you, and it is going to be okay. Some of the fruit of the Spirit are joy and peace (Galatians 5:22). Paul said: *"...We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1b).

2. Jesus was bringing salvation and hope (19:39-40)

"Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told Him, 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out!'"

- The disciples and many in the crowd were celebrating Jesus' arrival, worshiping Him as the Messiah. They knew that the Messiah would bring salvation to His people. Isaiah, foretelling the Messiah's sacrificial death 700 years before Christ, said: *"Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:4-5).
- The people were oppressed by the brutal Roman authorities. They were led by corrupt Jewish priests and religious leaders. The Messiah would bring peace and hope to the Jewish people, and to all who proclaimed Him as their King. He would liberate them from their oppressors and corrupt leaders. The people would shout, *"Hosanna!"*, which means *"Please save!"* He would bring salvation to His

people, and to all others who worshiped Him as the Messiah-King.

- Jesus brings salvation to you today. He brings salvation and hope to all who turn to Him in faith. Jesus said: *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). Paul said: *"God poured out richly upon us that Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Being made right with God by His grace, we could have the hope of receiving the life that never ends"* (Titus 3:6-7). The psalmist said: *"For You are my hope, Lord God, my confidence..."* (Psalm 71:5). Jesus still brings salvation to all who call on Him in repentance and faith.

Palm Sunday is significant to us today because we celebrate Jesus the Messiah, the King, who brings joy and peace, and salvation and hope. We celebrate His death and resurrection during this Holy Week. When you cry, *"Hosanna!"* which means *"Please save,"* Jesus will save you. That is why we celebrate Palm Sunday.