

## Palm Sunday

041325

### INTRO – “The King Is Coming In”

Today, we celebrate what the Church has called Palm Sunday ... The day our Lord, Jesus Christ, made His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem ... He did not enter the city riding on a war horse – nor in royal splendor ... He came riding on a donkey – lowly – humble and full of prophetic purpose.

Now catch this – there is something so much deeper going on here than palm branches and a parade! ... This is not just a moment – an event in biblical history ... This is a spiritual picture – a prophetic act – a holy unveiling – of what happens when heaven kisses earth ... When the divine invades humanity ... When eternity steps into time ... When the King of glory doesn’t just enter a city ... He enters into the soul of humanity.

Today is not just a day to look back 2,000 years ago and say, “That was a beautiful event.” ... No – today is about what’s happening right now – right here - - in your spirit ... Because the true Jerusalem the Lord is after ... The city He wants to inhabit ... Is you.

**Matthew 21:5** says, “Behold — your King is coming — to you — humble, and riding on a donkey...”

Let’s just stop and let that wash over us ... His purpose in coming is for you ... He is not coming in wrath nor with condemnation ... He is coming in humility – full of mercy – grace – and gentleness ... His desire is to take up residence – to rule and reign with you.

We’ve been talking about what it means to be “In Christ” — but today – we flip the lens — this is about Christ coming into you ... This is about divine union – spiritual visitation – and holy invasion.

This passage isn't just historical... it's heavenly ... And I believe – if you'll open your heart – if you'll lean in with ears to hear and eyes to see - - the Holy Spirit is going to reveal a deep – transformative truth for you this morning.

### **The City Within – “Make Room for the King**

Jerusalem is more than just a city on a map ... More than ancient stones with a sacred history ... Jerusalem is a mirror – a mystical symbol of the heart ... It's the center of human consciousness – the very place where God has always desired to dwell ... **Psalm 87:3** says, “Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!”

Now catch this – God has always longed to dwell – not just among His people – but within His people ... **1 Corinthians 3:16** asks us, - - “Don't you know that you are God's temple — and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” ... Consider this – God never created humanity to live empty ... He created us to be His Temple – a house – a holy habitation

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is more than a story ... It's a revelation — it shows us what happens when the King comes not just to visit — but to indwell ... He's not a tourist passing through our life ... He's not a guest just stopping by to say hi ... He is the King who desires to take residence – to indwell – to reign from within each of us!

He's not a distant God ... He's not far off in the clouds ... He is Emmanuel — God with us ... And even more than that... He is God Who dwells within us ... **Joshua 1:5** reminds us — “No man will be able to stand against you ... I will be with you ... I will not leave you... I will not forsake you.”

Remember - - The Lord is a gentleman ... He will not force Himself – where He is not welcomed ... He doesn't crash the gates — He knocks ... He doesn't storm your heart — He waits ... **Revelation 3:20** says — “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” ... He's not just knocking for salvation ... He's knocking for intimacy ... He's saying, “Will you let Me into that

place you've kept closed off? ... Will you let Me rule in the places where fear and shame have sat on your throne?" ... He's not just knocking on the front door of your life — He wants every room ... The living room ... The secret places ... The storage closet ... The basement ... He wants to fill the whole house and bring complete restoration to your soul ... Palm Sunday is your wake-up call ... The King is at the gate – and He's asking, "Will you let Me into those rooms of your life that you have kept shut from Me?"

### **The Donkey – The Dignity of Our Humanity**

Now let's look at something that might seem insignificant – yet is loaded with spiritual meaning — the donkey ... Jesus didn't come riding into Jerusalem like a Roman general, riding on a war horse, cloaked with power and intimidation ... No — our King came low and slow... humble and holy... riding on a donkey ... A beast of burden ... And that, right there, is a spiritual nugget ... He chose the ordinary ... He chose the awkward ... He chose the common ... To carry the weight of glory ... Why? ... Because He was revealing something about each of us ... You see, that donkey is a picture of humanity ... Awkward - - Stubborn - - Resistant - - Prideful - - Self-sufficient - - Independent

But watch this - - Jesus didn't bypass our humanity ... He didn't avoid it ... He didn't roll His eyes at it ... He sat on it ... He chose it ... He entered into it ... Why? ... Because He was declaring: "This, too, belongs to Me." ... You were made in the image of God — and even though that image got perverted and clouded by sin, - - Jesus came to redeem it, - not reject it ... He didn't say, "Clean yourself up first." ... He said, "I'll ride in just as it is — and I'll do the redeeming from the inside out."

**John 15:5** says – "I am the Vine, you are the branches - - apart from Me, - - you can do nothing." ... Without Him, - we're just donkeys ... Carrying burdens we were never meant to carry ... Wandering aimlessly without any clear direction ... Beat down by the weight of life, sin, shame, and striving.

But here's the Good News – the Gospel ... You don't have to walk alone anymore ... You don't have to carry those burdens by yourself ... You were never meant to move - without the leading and guidance of the Rider!

### **Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)**

“Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest ... Take My yoke upon you ... Let Me teach you - and you will find rest for your souls ... For My yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Let that sink in for a moment ... Jesus doesn't just remove the weight and cares of life - - He removes them and replaces them with rest ... When you align with Him ... When you flow in a rhythm with Him ... When you walk in your new identity – you will find and have rest for your soul ... You're no longer just a beast of burden — you're a carrier of the King.

### **The Hosannas – The Cry of the Soul**

**Matthew 21:9** says – “Hosanna to the Son of David! ... Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

When we hear the word “Hosanna,” – we often imagine celebration, dancing, waving palms in joyful praise — and yes, it is that ... But let's look a little deeper? ... The original cry of Hosanna wasn't just praise — it was also a plea ... It was a desperate shout for salvation ... It literally means: “Save us now!” ... It's not polished ... It's not pretty ... It's not a performance ... It's a heartfelt cry from the depths of a soul ... It's that sound which rises from the depths - when we realize we can't fix ourselves ... It's the voice of someone crying: “Jesus, I can't carry this anymore.” ... “Jesus, come into my chaos.” ... “Jesus, save me from my pride.” ... “Jesus, heal me where I'm still bleeding.” ... “Jesus, reign over the broken places I've tried to hide.” ... That's real worship ... True worship is not about volume — it's about vulnerability ... It's not about how loud you sing — it's about how deeply you surrender ... It's not about the music — it's about the meeting between your soul and His Spirit ... When they cried out “Hosanna!” on that road into Jerusalem - they were prophetically announcing the only One who could truly save them — not just from Rome, - - but from themselves ... And this cry still echoes today ...

Hosanna is the moment where you say, - - “Lord, you’re welcome here — but not just in my church life ... Come into my real life ... Come into my mess ... Come into my shame – guilt and fears ... Come into the places I’ve been afraid to face.” ... Now catch this – when the King rides in, - He doesn't just wave to the crowds ... He rides in and goes straight to the temple ... Where He starts cleansing - - healing - - and setting things back in order.

So, the question is: - - Will you lift your Hosanna today? ... Not just as a song, but as a cry from your soul in surrender?

### **Cloaks and Branches – Laying Down the False Self**

**Matthew 21:8** – “Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Still others laid their cloaks down”

Many just rush right past the depth of these spiritual truths ... They didn’t just wave branches — they laid down their cloaks ... What are cloaks? ... Cloaks represent our outer identity ... What this world has tried to shape us into ... The image we wear to look like we have it all together ... The mask – the persona – the performance ... The cloak represents our self-sufficiency – our pride and arrogance – our independence ... But when Jesus comes riding in, when the King approaches – there is an inward pulling that says - - “This can’t go with me ... I must lay all these things down ... These people were making a prophetic declaration: “I’m not just giving You praise — I’m making room for Your reign.”

**Galatians 2:20** says — “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”

That’s not poetry — that’s power ... That’s not symbolic — that’s spiritual transformation ... When you lay down your cloak and raise your palm, you’re saying: “I dethrone myself.” ... “I die to the version of me that I created without God.” ... “I lay down what I built, so He can build something eternal.” ... “Jesus - - You reign in me!” ... This is not just a welcome — it’s a transfer of authority ... This is where identity meets surrender ... Where honor meets transformation ... Where the false self dies, and the true self in Christ rises.

Let me ask you: What are you still wearing that God's calling you to lay down? ... What titles, images, and attitudes need to hit the pavement so the King can walk in? ... Palm branches honor Him ... But cloaks? ... Cloaks say, "Rule over me." ... And when the cloaks hit the ground, the road becomes a pathway to the throne ... So today - - let it be more than just palms in our hands ... Let it be our pride - - our independence - - our false identity - - that we lay at His feet ... Because that's where transformation begins.

### **The Weeping King – Don't Miss the Moment**

**Luke 19:41–42** – “As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, - He wept over it and said, - ‘If you had only known - on this day - - what would bring you peace...’”

Did you hear that? ... Can you hear the sorrow in His voice ... This isn't just Jesus carrying out His mission ... This is the heart of our Lord – broken – as they can't see what is unfolding right before their eyes ... Jesus – the Prince of Peace isn't coming in wrath with a sword ... He is coming in humility with tears in His eyes ... Why? ... Because they missed it ... They couldn't see what was right in front of their eyes ... They missed the entire meaning of this event ... Jesus was coming to bring peace – not just to the world – but to their very souls ... This wasn't a political victory over Roman oppression – but an eternal restoration of all mankind ... And yet – they were blinded to it ... Too caught up in their own expectations ... Too distracted by the noise ... Too ingrained with their religious ideology to recognize that the Savior of the world was right in front of them.

This is the mystical heartbreak of God ... When He comes close to us - - we don't recognize Him ... When He rides in – we are looking elsewhere ... When He knocks – we are too busy behind closed doors ... But today – right now – He is riding in – desiring to enter the gate of your heart

So let me ask you ... Can you see Him? ... Can you hear Him knocking? ... Will you open the gates of your heart and let the King of Glory come in? ... Because when the King weeps, - it's

not from weakness - It's from longing ... A divine desire for you to know Him ... To receive Him ... To be healed by Him

### **Takeaway – Open the Gates**

**Psalms 24:7** – “Lift up your heads, - - O you gates; - be lifted up, - you everlasting doors, - that the King of glory may come in.”

Palm Sunday is not just a holiday ... It's not just a story ... It's a divine invitation ... It's the King of Glory saying - - “I want to come in ... Not just into your Sunday morning - - but into your Monday pain, - - your Tuesday anxiety, - - your Wednesday weariness” ... This is not just about waving palms ... It's about opening doors ... It's about saying - - “Lord, you don't just get my praise ... You get my permission to come in and rearrange my life.” ... Today is about more than remembrance ... It's about union ... It's about intimacy ... It's about a fresh surrender that says - - “Jesus, take Your place on the throne of my heart.”

Let me ask you ... Will you open the gate? ... Not just the front door - - not just the parts that look clean - - but the deep places - - the wounded places - - the places still locked behind fear and pride? ... He's not coming to condemn ... He's coming to heal, to cleanse, and to transform.

Let me ask you plainly - - Is Jesus truly Lord of your life? ... And if He is - - have you given Him access to everything inside? ... Because the King doesn't just visit - He comes to dwell - To reign - To restore you into His image.

### **Closing Prayer: Let the King Come In**

Father, - We come before You today with open hearts and lifted hands ... We thank You for the gift of Palm Sunday ... Not just as a memory, but as a moment ... A moment where Heaven touches Earth ... Where the Eternal King rides into the soul of man ... Jesus, we declare You are our King ... You are not just worthy of our praise - You are worthy of our everything ... Today, we lay down our cloaks ... We surrender our pride, our pain, our false selves ... We raise

our hosannas - not just as praise, - but as a cry for salvation ... “Save us now, Lord... Save us from ourselves ... Save us into You.” ... Come in, King of Glory ... Come in with healing ... Come in with fire ... Come in with truth ... Come in with love ... Do a holy house cleaning, Lord ... Turn over the tables that need to be flipped ... Drive out what doesn’t belong ... And fill every room with Your Spirit ... Jesus, - You are not just riding into Jerusalem - You are riding into us ... Be enthroned ... Be magnified ... Be glorified - in this temple, - in these people, - in this place ... And I declare it now in the name of Jesus - - Amen and Amen