

Experiencing Palm Sunday with Jesus

Each year on the Sunday before Easter, Christians around the world observe Palm, or Passion, Sunday. Many churches celebrate this holiday by singing festive songs and waving palm branches to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Each of the four gospels includes an account of Jesus' triumphal entry, a day when the crowds hailed him as a king. Studying each of the gospels' perspectives further informs our faith and more deeply prepares our hearts for Easter. Join us as we discuss the meaning of Palm Sunday and learn from Jesus' actions and countenance as he experiences the events of that first Palm Sunday.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you think “Hosanna” means?
- What is the mood or atmosphere like on Palm Sunday in your church? What do you think it was like for Jesus and the disciples on the very first Palm Sunday? =



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Experiencing Palm Sunday with Jesus](#)

READ [Matthew 21:1-9](#), [Mark 11:11-17](#), [Luke 19:41-44](#), [John 12:12-19](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hozzee and Darrell Delaney discuss the expectations many of the disciples and their fellow Jews in the crowds had for Jesus. As they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey and shouted “Hosanna!,” meaning “Save us!,” they were expecting a Messiah that would be an insurrectionist and save them from the Roman occupation and oppression. They did not yet understand the type of Messiah Jesus would be. Why do you think we still say or sing “Hosanna!” to the King of kings today? What should it mean to us?
- As segment 1 closes, Scott mentions the change in attitude the crowd will exhibit by the end of Holy Week and Darrell says, “Isn’t it interesting that when Jesus doesn’t do what we expect him to do, then our attitudes change.” Do you agree or disagree with his statement? Why? Are there examples from your own life or the life of someone you know that support your position?
- In the gospel of Mark, Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem is followed on Monday by what Scott called “The Indignant Reentry.” In the gospel of Luke, we experience yet another side of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. Scott and Darrell describe Jesus’ mood as sad, somber, sober, and sorrowful. Why is it beneficial for our spiritual lives to remember and reflect on Jesus’ mood and perspective even as we remember the excitement and joy of the crowds as they hailed him as king and shouted “Hosanna!” and “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”?

- While reviewing what our study of Palm Sunday means for our lives today in segment 3, Scott observes that “The disciples and the crowds didn’t understand the nature of Jesus,” recalling that they wanted and expected him to be political, but instead he was humble, meek, and mild. Scott calls the study of Palm Sunday a “gut-check” and asks: “Do we today sometimes try to turn Jesus and his Church into something Jesus and his Church are not meant to be?” How would you respond to Scott’s question?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Zechariah 9:9](#), [Isaiah 56:4-8](#), [Jeremiah 7:9-11](#), [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-17, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19). Which one surprised you? Or caused you to pause? Or challenged you? Or broadened your understanding of Palm Sunday? How has this study prepared your heart and mind for what is yet to come in Holy Week? Close your time of reflection with a prayer, giving thanks to God that Jesus stayed the course and followed the will of the Father as he entered Jerusalem humbly on a donkey to deliver all people from death.

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