

**Refuge City Church — April 2, 2023**  
**Palm Sunday — “We wish to see Jesus” (John 12:12-36)**

### **Introduction**

- Why Palm Sunday?
  - Has its roots in Jewish tradition
    - [Instruction given for the Feast of Booths] **Leviticus 23:40**, “And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees... and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God...”
  - But we also see this as a portion of our worship in eternity!
    - **Revelation 7:9-10**, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘*Salvation* belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
  - Jesus’ Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem took place during the Passover Feast.
    - The centerpiece of the feast is the Passover Lamb.
      - **Exodus 12**, “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old... Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it... The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”
      - **John 1:29**, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
      - As the palm branch has its roots in praise to God, so the sacrificial Passover lamb has semblance to our King, who would sacrifice his life so we would not incur the wrath and judgment of God.
- So at the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He would ride in to Jerusalem as a symbolic gesture, showing the people WHO He is and WHY He came.
- In all 4 accounts of Jesus’ triumphal entrance in to Jerusalem, there are particular questions and statements made...
  - “Who is this?” [Matthew 21:10]
  - “We wish to see Jesus.” [John 12:21]
  - “Why are you doing this?” [Mark 11:3]
  - “Rebuke your disciples!” [Luke 19:39]
- Let’s take a look at how Jesus addresses all of these as He rides in to Jerusalem.

### **“Who is this?” [Verses 12-19]**

“The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified,

then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

- The people came for the feast; to participate in their annual religious ceremony of Passover.
  - But when they heard Jesus was coming, something changed.
  - The air in Jerusalem went from ritual to praise... But was it for the right reason??
- **Verse 16:** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.
  - We may not understand in the moment, but Jesus reveals everything we need to know at the right time.
  - **Romans 5:6**, “...at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”
  - In the moment, we have particular expectations we place on Jesus...
    - He’s here to solve all *my* problems, as long as he doesn’t disrupt my comfort.
    - He’s here to fix all the wrong in the world.
    - He’s come to save us from all the political and cultural drama! [Israel expecting an earthly king to rid them of Roman occupation]
  - So, you’re going to praise Him and shout ‘Hosanna!’
    - **Matthew 21:10**, “And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”
    - But because of your misunderstanding of who He is, and what He came to do, your praise will become silent when the dark clouds roll in.
    - A misunderstanding of *who* Jesus is can turn your praise into disappointment when you only praise for what you can gain.
- On this day, Jesus prophetically revealed who He is.
  - [Verse 15] **Zechariah 9:9**, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
- **QUESTION:** So how can we gain a better understanding of who Jesus is??

### **“We wish to see Jesus” [Verses 20-26]**

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

- Those that wish to see Jesus [desire; it’s an ‘*I will*’ statement] were given the exact response they needed to hear.

- He came as a humble servant who would sacrifice His life to save yours from sin and eternal separation from God.
  - That perfect Savior needed to die to set you free.
  - **Verse 18:** The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.
    - The signs & wonders He did for others, that attracted your attention, will now cease to be the only reason you wish to see Him.
    - You'll realize that everything He has done has been for your salvation.
  - In the realization of who He is, why He came, and what He did, those who draw near to see Him have all their questions answered.
    - Only then can we properly shout, 'Hosanna! [cry for help; "save me"]
    - **Psalm 118:21-27**, "I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us..."
  - This change of heart, and spirit of gratitude, for our salvation will lead us to a life-long commitment, sacrifice, and service for our King.
    - **John 8:31**, "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,"
    - **QUESTION:** What is a disciple?
  - **Verse 26:** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.
    - Wherever He goes, I will follow... What He did for us, we do for others.
- Having a clear understanding of who He is, and what He came to do, may still cause us to ask another question...

### ***"Why are you doing this?" [Verses 27-36]***

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them."

- The entirety of God's plan, from the very beginning, was to draw all people to Himself.

- **2 Peter 3:9**, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” [John 3:16]
- **Romans 5:8-9**, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”
- In the moment of pain and suffering, we ought to learn how to pray!
- The crowds praised Jesus for immediate salvation from their political oppressors. They desired comfort in their misunderstanding of why Jesus came.
  - If Jesus came for your comfort, He would not have had to suffer the most excruciating pain and torture devised by man for your salvation.
  - If God delivered His own Son up for suffering and sacrifice, why should you get a free ride?
- We ought to pray in the same manner as Jesus. Rather than ‘save me from this’, we ought to pray that His name be glorified through every one of our circumstances.

### **Conclusion**

**Ephesians 5:8-17**, “for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

- Jesus said to believe in the light, the Light of the World, so that we may become a part of His family.
  - This is salvation!
- It cannot be emphasized enough that while we are here, we have a job to do.
  - Walk as children of light.
  - Walk as Jesus walked.
  - Constantly seek Him in all you do, desiring to know Him at a deeper level than you ever have.
  - Keep before you who He is, and why He came.
  - Live in a way that may cause others to have their sin exposed.
    - Some may respond well to it and seek the life they can gain in Jesus.
    - Others may ask to keep your light to yourself.
    - **Luke 19:38-40**, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”
- Live in such a way that shows the world around you that you’ve been set free!