

life groups

Palm Sunday
John 12: 12 - 18

Summary

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter and begins the Holy Week. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. Matthew 21:9 records that hundreds of people shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven" as He entered the city. What we know today as a triumphal entry is actually the entry of a man into a city where He would die a horrific death on the cross as a punishment for our sins and therefore would reconcile us back to God through this atoning act.

Diving Into The Scripture

1. Take a few minutes to think about this moment. Jesus, because of His omniscience (encompassing all knowledge of the universe past, present, and future), knew exactly what would take place just days later. Jesus not only allowed the crucifixion to take place, He walked right into the place and to the people who would crucify Him. Discuss for a moment the courage and love that Jesus displayed this day. Stop and pray that God would give you courage and love for others like Jesus displays for us by entering the city.
2. Jerusalem had two different responses to Jesus during this week. On Sunday they celebrated His arrival and on Friday they cheered His crucifixion. Much like them, we have two responses for Christ. We can treasure Him, or we can deny Him. There is no in between. What does it look like to treasure Christ? What does it look like to deny Christ?
3. Verse 17 explains that the crowd was eager to meet Jesus as He entered because they had heard of the miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life. Maybe it was to get a glimpse of the man who performed the miracle or perhaps to receive a miracle of their own, but either way they were motivated because of the testimony they had heard. Can you describe a time where hearing of a miracle in someone's life gave you hope or encouraged your faith?
4. The Bible explains that when we are saved, we are, like Lazarus, brought from death to life. The miracle of Lazarus spread throughout the people. Why does it seem like it would be easier to tell the story of something like the Lazarus miracle than it is to tell about our own miracle, the miracle of our salvation?
5. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than we could ever conceive or plan. Man looked for someone to fight their battles in the present-day world, yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of death. Think about and share 2-3 things you will remember and focus on this week as we remember and celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Righteous and Risen King.

Prayer Action: Pray for the upcoming Easter weekend. Pray for those who do not know Jesus but will attend a church on Easter. Pray that God would convict them of their sin and unbelief, and they would trust Him as their Lord and Savior.