

Holy Week: Palm Sunday (4/5/2020)

How strange it is to be absent from the Lord's house during Holy Week. But as you read these devotions, remember, you are not alone, Jesus is with you, even if you are in isolation by yourself. He says, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." He also says, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." So, as you read these devotions with your family, you really are in "church."



It was the Sunday before our Lord's bitter, innocent sufferings and death on the cross. As he approached Jerusalem from the east, he came to a village called Bethphage (BETH-fa-gee) on the Mount of Olives. He showed he is the omniscient, all-knowing God by knowing the exact location of a donkey and her colt. The colt had never been ridden. In the Bible, animals used for a sacred purpose were to be unbroken. What greater sacred purpose could this colt serve than to carry the King of kings and Lord of lords into the Holy City? If you look at a donkey from above, you will see there is a cross on its back. And so our Servant-King would ride a beast of burden, sitting on a cross, as he headed to the cross, where he would bear the burden of our sins.

He instructed two of his disciples to go into the town and untie the two animals. He assured them, "If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." Rather than thinking they were being sent on a fool's mission, they immediately followed the Lord's instructions. As they untied the animals, their owners asked, "Why are you untying them?" They answered as the Lord instructed, and the owners submitted to Jesus' divine will.

They brought the animals to Jesus. To protect their Lord from the shedding hair, they placed their cloaks on the colt as a makeshift saddle, and put Jesus on it. Jesus displayed his almighty power by causing this unbroken colt to allow our Lord to be its rider without bucking.

Jesus rode into the capital city in majestic humility. The adoring crowds gave him the red-carpet treatment. Some spread their cloaks on the road in front of him. Others spread palm branches in front of him. With great jubilation they shouted out, "Hosanna!" Which means, "Save us please!" "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" The crowds thought Jesus was a worldly king who would lead a rebellion against the dreaded Roman Empire, gain Israel's independence, and restore Israel to the glory days of Kings David and Solomon.

Little did they realize Jesus was heading into Jerusalem to wage war, but not against the Roman Empire. Rather, he would wage war against the Devil's evil empire and all of his heinous hordes of demons. He would willingly carry our sins to the cross and lay down his life on Golgotha's battlefield in order to liberate us from the Devil's rule. He would triumphantly rise from the dead, proclaiming himself to be our King of kings and Lord of lords who conquered our worst enemy, death, and brought life and immortality to light.

This Holy Week, may you and I be humbled by the depths of our Servant-King's love for us. He willingly submitted himself to the torments of hell and death on the cross so that we might be citizens of his kingdom today and forever.

Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang; Through pillared court and temple The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to his breast, The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant crowd, The victor palm branch waving And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of saints and angels Rode on in lowly state Nor scorned that little children Should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing, For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav'n, our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him With heart and life and voice And in his royal presence Eternally rejoice.

After sharing this devotion with your family, take the time to read Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-48, and John 12:12-19

Pastor Zuberbier