

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus Wins: Palm Sunday

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello Church, My name is _____ and I am so excited to kick off a journey to Easter called Jesus Wins!

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where people welcomed Him by waving palm branches and laying them on His path. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, leading up to Easter Sunday. **We have been preparing for this week all year!** And before we get into our message today

We have so many awesome things happening this week. Not only today's service, but: **Holy Week Devotional for you and we'll all be going through this together over the next 7 days.**

Inside is some info in there regarding easter service times, Egg Stuffing Party on Thursday Night, Good Friday Service, Eggstravaganza and then of course Easter Sunday!

According to the Barna Research Group:

Unchurched people are 90% more likely to accept an invite to church at Christmas and Easter than any other service of the year.

80% of unchurched people would say yes if invited but Less than 2% of Christians have an actual person in mind and a plan to invite them.

So as your pastor, I'm going to help you right now... Let's all go ahead and get out our phones. I'm going to do it with you!

Step One – Find someone in your current texts or contacts that you know probably doesn't have a church or won't attend easter on their own...

"**Hey [first name]** Easter Sunday is next week! I was in church this morning and thought about you. Would you like to join me for our Easter service next week?"

(Play MUSAK MUSIC – I think Jopardy Music would be funny)

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Today's message is a little different in that we're intently focused on one day in the life of Jesus. [Like that old show 24. It's going to be a lot, but it's just one day.](#)

Context & Background:

What we need to know about this time: The Jewish people were under the thumb of the Romans and in many ways were under the thumbs of their own corrupt leaders.

- Their **Messiah or Savior had been prophesied over 700 years previous** but they were **wondering if the time would ever come**, that their savior would come **and set them free from Roman Rule.**
- For **3 years** now they had been **watching Jesus** minister. They had **seen** him perform **thousands of miracles**, they had heard him **teach** with great **authority** and **wisdom** and now things are coming to a head.
- It was **Passover season** in Jerusalem. Scholars have estimated that there may have been as many as a **half of million people** in **Jerusalem** at the time of **Passover**. This wasn't some small occasion. This was the time of year when everyone who could get to Jerusalem got to Jerusalem.

Illustration: I don't know how many of you have been to the **F1 race in Austin**, but that event draws **about 400,000 people each year**. So, imagine that environment and somehow even more. It's a huge spectacle. So as Jesus is making his way towards town, towards the spectacle he tells his disciples this:

The whole city was packed for Passover, they were talking about Jesus, lots of speculation and hope from what they heard. I mean he raised a man from the dead, Lazarus, some just wanted to see for themselves, could this be the Messiah. **In the middle of all this. Jesus shows arrives in town.**

03. MESSAGE

Today we're going learn: **Four Lessons from Palm Sunday**

Luke 19:30-34 "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.' " ³²So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴"The Lord needs it," they said.

Now think about that for a minute.

This is like you and me go out to the F1 race... people everywhere... cars everywhere. And then, I tell you... *"hey, go into that parking lot and get me a car. Just tell the guy who owns it I need it."*

Now imagine you're the disciples.

Jesus says: *"hey, go get that Colt and bring it back to me."*

Disciples are like: *"what if the guy says no?"*

Jesus: *"Just tell him the Lord needs it."*

Disciples: *"But you are the Lord... Why do I have to go commandeering some dudes donkey? Can't you just make one appear!?"*

Jesus: *"No, then you wouldn't have anything to do."*

And right here we get our [first lesson from Palm Sunday](#).

1. Jesus works through people.

Notice what happened.

- To his **disciples** he said, **“Go”**
- To the **man** with the **colt** he says: **“Give”**
- Sometimes he *tells us to do both!*

Jesus love to employ people, in the work of his Kingdom. *It is the way he expands his kingdom.*

We just came out of a series where we learned about **the power of the Holy Spirit**. *The whole reason Jesus sent The Holy Spirit was to equip his people to build his kingdom.*

Never forget: wherever God is **moving**, he’s **moving through people**. Wherever he’s **building**, he’s **building through people**.

Getting back to the text. Unfortunately, we get no reaction from the owner of the colt. Keep going and watch what happens next.

Luke 19:35-37 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. ³⁶As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. ³⁷Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen.”

Let me pause there for a second, because this is important.

In the **Gospel of John**, in his Palm Sunday account, **John tells us about one of those miracles** that caused so many people to come and see.

Look at what John says in: John 12:9-11 Then a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰But the chief priests had decided to kill Lazarus also, because he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

So, the word is getting out! And this is one of the reasons the crowd got so big around Jesus. Not only did they want to see Jesus, but they wanted to see Lazarus, the dead man walking!

So they all gather around and they are throwing down their clothes like a red carpet, and waiving palm branches and shouting:

Luke 19:38 ³⁸Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

This is a **quote from Psalm 118**, a **passage that prophetically speaks about** the coming Jewish **Messiah, the Savior**.

Transition: So here, on this Palm Sunday, the people, in mass, begin to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. And we know that Jesus loves to Work Through People But the problem is:

2. People are complicated.

The **same people** should “**Bless the King**” today will be the ones yelling “**Crucify him**” a few days later. And the truth is – Most of us would have been doing the same thing if we were there.

But if we did... we'd be wrong... because they were wrong. Yes, they started to see Jesus as the Messiah, as their savior... But their understanding of Messiah was wrong.

They were looking for the Messiah to come and be a political leader; to bring political peace to the earth. But that's not why he came.

Look at what Jesus said in: **Matthew 10:34-36** ³⁴Don't assume that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.

What does all that mean? It means that Jesus is not going to conform to everyone's ideas about who he is supposed to be. And it means that:

3. Everyone must choose.

Here's what Jesus is really saying: You can have **me**, or you can have your **traditions**. You can have **me**, or you can have your **old ways of doing things**. You can have **me**, or you can have your **old ways of thinking**.

Jesus said this: **Matthew 10:22** *"22You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."*

And when you choose him... You should **expect that: some people won't like you... some may even hate you.**

I'm not saying this to scare you – I'm saying this to prepare you. **It may cost you money**. It may cost you **opportunities**. It may cost you **relationships**. **But following Jesus will always be worth whatever it costs.**

Transition: Let's jump to verse 41 and keep reading:

Luke 19:41-42 *⁴¹As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it, ⁴²saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.*

Remember I said earlier... we as humans have a problem. **We focus on what we want instead of what God is doing**. Now Jesus, seeing that they have recognized him in part, but not recognized him in full, begins to weep. This isn't like a small shedding of a tear, or even a quiet cry.

Greek word used for the weeping is **klaiō** (*pronounced: clay-oh*) And this word, means **wailing** and **sobbing**.

This is the kind of weeping you do not just when you're sad, but when you're sad and angry. **Have you ever been so mad that you start crying?** That's what is going on here. Yes Jesus is sad, but he's also angry because he knows what their blindness will cost them.

As bad as Roman oppression was... there's **greater oppression than that of the Romans.**

**The *greatest oppression* is not what man can do to man.
The *greatest oppression* is what sin does to man.**

You know why the idea of equity ultimately fails?

Because you can live in the freest of free countries, and still be totally oppressed. And you can live under the most severe political oppression, and still be free. **Still have peace... if you know Jesus.**

This is why John says: **John 8:36 (ESV)** *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

Transition: So, Jesus, knows what they want, but he also knows that what is available to them is so much more. **Because He, is so much more.**

4. Jesus is infinitely more than we think.

He is more than just a Dr. we go to when we are sick. *Though he is that.* He's so much more than just a friend we turn to when we are alone. *Though he is that too.* But what he really is, is the way maker, the peace maker, the freedom bringer.

And if you haven't heard anything I've said so far today, hear me when I say... He wants to make a way, and bring peace and freedom to you and me, today.

We've learned four lessons from Palm Sunday but all of those lessons, lead us to ask the most important question we can ask:

Where am I in relationship to Jesus? It's one thing to walk in ignorance. It's another thing entirely to walk in willful ignorance. They missed it... you don't have to. You can learn from their story. You can make the choice today to see Jesus for who he is. Not who you want him to be, not who you wish he was. But for who he is.

Seeing is not believing. Remember... we're complicated.

We see what we want to see. **With Jesus... Believing is seeing**, seeing him rightly and responding correctly.

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

I want to close with one final scripture. **Did you know that there will be a Palm Sunday do-over.** There was *so much right, and yet so much wrong* at that *first Palm Sunday*. But there's going to be another one. **And it's going to be perfect.**

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with **palm branches in their hands.** ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

None rejecting, none weeping. All rejoicing.

I can't wait to be there on that day. And I want all of you to be there with me. **Jesus is still showing up** and **waiting** for **you** to **decide who he is.** Don't miss your moment. **Jesus Wins, The question is always, Where am I in relation to Him.**

LET'S PRAY