

## **“Hosanna! Save Us!”**

### **John 12:12-19**

Last Sunday, we said thank-you to our beloved Fukuda's and sent them off. Next Sunday, we welcome the Kimura's. What shall we do today? I feel worn out, wanting to have a rest, to get away from sadness. At the same time, I want to be renewed. I want to be healed. How about you?

Jesus Christ is coming. He will do a miracle. Since today is Palm Sunday, as the kids have already done, let's shout "Hosanna! Save us!" Our Savior Jesus Christ, our true leader is coming! As the crowd in those days shouted, let us also shout, "Hosanna! Save us!" to our true Savior.

Why was such a large crowd there in Jerusalem?

**Verse 12:** "The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem."

So, there were at least two reasons why so many people gathered in Jerusalem at that time.

First of all, they were coming for the Passover Festival. Verse 1 - "Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead."

This festival or feast celebrated the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. It lasted for a week. The Lord had saved them out of slavery, helped them get away from Pharaoh by opening a way through the Red Sea, and provided water and manna for them in the wilderness. They came to remember and celebrate God's miracle of deliverance.

Secondly, people came because of the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead. Look at verses 17 and 18. "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."

They were telling others about this, and so the crowd swelled. Verse 9, "When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead."

**Verse 13,** "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!'"

"Hosanna" is a plea for God save. It is also a shout of praise or adoration. Palm leaves or branches signify triumph, peace, eternal life. Simply speaking, they were so thankful and celebrated Jesus as their king. The leader they hoped and longed for had come.

I want to ask you this morning, "Why have you come today?" "What is your hope?" Who is Jesus to you? How do you feel when you hear the words, "Jesus is your king?"

Today is Palm Sunday. Let us worship our King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verses 14-16**, "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 disciples and others probably thought, "Finally, our Savior has come. He is the Messiah! He is our leader who will save us from Rome. But, why is he riding on a donkey? Why not a white stallion? Donkeys were for servants.

But this was predicted. 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."

The key point is that because Jesus is humble, he will ride on the colt of a donkey. He was their king, their Messiah, their victor who was without sin. But, he was also humble or gentle. What does this mean? He would save them in weakness.

**Isaiah 53:7**, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."

This was also predicted. Matthew 27:12-14, "But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed."

Why didn't he open his mouth? Why didn't he say something?

**Isaiah 53:4,5**, "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

The disciples did not understand all this. Jesus would not quickly save them from Rome. Instead, He would save them from their greatest problem, their sins. He would save them from hate and jealousy and bitterness and from controlling others. Because of the wounds of Jesus on the cross, the wounds of our hearts can be healed.

Someone might say, "But Joel, it isn't that simple for the wounds of my heart to be healed." Yes, I am the same way. When I was in Kansas, I stayed with my brother. I had every intention of getting along well with him, but a sharp word slipped out and I hurt him. I didn't sleep good that night. The next morning, incredibly, I had the chance to apologize to him. He said, "Yes, I was hurt by what you said, but I do forgive you."

However, even though we said the words of apology and forgiveness, the wound in our hearts does not go away quickly. I must also take it to Jesus and allow him to bear it on the cross. "He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows." I must allow Jesus to bear the pain in my heart and my words that damage people. I must continually everyday take it to him and allow him to bear it.

And after that, my brother and I were able to talk about why we hurt each other. I understand that I was wrong and humble myself. But then, through Jesus and his cross, I believe that I am forgiven, and so therefore I can repent of my sin. It will probably happen again and I will need to go to the cross of Jesus again and again.

This is the gospel. We need it in all of our relationships. In other words, Jesus comes as our king. He wants to control our lives. We however have tried to get away from his control and in our lostness have committed sin. But then Jesus also comes as our Savior. He has through the cross taken our sin and the wounds of our hearts upon himself.

Unfortunately, people reject this. They want to control their own lives. They don't understand their sin. The Pharisees were like this. Verse 19, "So the Pharisees said to one another, 'You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.'"

What were the Pharisees not gaining?

Look at verses 10 and 11. "So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus."

People were believing in Jesus. They were believing the gospel. The Pharisees were losing the trust of the people. They were losing their control, their power. Wait a minute! These were the leading religious leaders of the day. Why would they be against Jesus? Because they wanted to be their own king. They wanted to be their own gospel. They wanted to be in control. They believed in their own righteousness. They wanted to kill Jesus.

So, I ask you again, when you hear that Jesus is your king, what is your response? Is it "Hosanna! Save us!" or is it "I don't like Jesus. I wish he was dead." Which is it?

Now, you might say, "Well, I like Jesus. I think he is a good person. But, I find it difficult to believe all the things he said and did." I encourage you to this week to ask Jesus to pray to Jesus like this. "Jesus, please show me yourself. I want to know you. Amen."