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## Palm Sunday<sup>1</sup>

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." — Zechariah 9:9

Palm Sunday signals the end of Lent the 40-day period of fasting and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday and kicks off Holy Week the seven days leading up to Easter.

## The Biblical Story of Palm Sunday - Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." And so the disciples went forth. This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." When Jesus entered Jerusalem that day, most of the city was stirred, waved palm branches, shouted with glee and some asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

## Palm Sunday Reminds Us that Christ is King

- 1. The palm branch represented goodness and victory and was symbolic of the final victory He would soon fulfill over death. -1 Cor. 15:55
- 2. Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy of <u>Zech. 9:9</u>. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace.
- 3. When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "save now," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him.
- 4. In the midst of the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long that these same people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Savior.
- 5. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any thought the mind of man could ever conceive or plan.

On the heels of Palm Sunday, as we begin this Holy Week, may we constantly be reminded of its significance and value for our lives today. Today represents a very important day in history, when Jesus began His journey towards the cross. In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ the King of Kings! Amen.

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 $<sup>^1</sup>$  https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/5-things-about-palm-sunday-that-remind-us-christ-is-king.html "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20