

ARBC – The Purpose of Palm Sunday
April 17, 2011

Father, God, we want to give ourselves to you, and thank you that satan could not keep you in that cold empty tomb. You rose victoriously. Thank you for that. As I share your word, let us leave loving you and each other more than when we got here. In your name, amen.

Wow, thank you.

We look at Palm Sunday, and wonder what that was. In the book of Matthew 21:9 you are familiar with this: Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

In John 12:13 we read that they broke palm branches from the trees and lined the streets in front of Jesus as He came into the city. The Pharisees looked out and said who is this man? They were concerned. The world has gone after Him. It appears to be a lot of love and compassion to Jesus, but those that loved Him, turned their backs to nail Him.

Jesus spent most of his life alone, being with God. But this day was different, the crowds pledged their love to him, they made a path for the Lord Jesus. They cried out, who is this? The answer came back this is Jesus the Profit of Nazareth of Galilee.

We will see what Palm Sunday is about. During the next 6 days, so many things happened to make a change for you and me.

Jesus tells them to go to the edge of town, and will find a donkey tied up; you will take the donkey and bring it back; that is what I will ride on. Jesus gave the instructions and the disciples followed them. They found the donkey and asked the master and he gave them the donkey.

We will see how He lies across a stone in the garden and looked up and asked “Father if it is your will let this cup pass”. But it wasn’t, so He died for you and me on that cross.

We will see that they took his body, covered in blood on the cross.

I believe there are 6 things we need to ask ourselves;

1 - The Coronation of King Jesus.

500 years before Jesus, the profit Zechariah wrote that when the Messiah would come into the city it would be on a lowly donkey. Zechariah 9:9 says: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, o daughter of Jerusalem; behold they King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly and riding upon a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of

a donkey.

Matthew 21:9 – “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

This same crowd that hailed him we will see in a few days they are yelling to crucify Him.

This is our king, our Lord, The lamb of the Old Testament, the Alpha and Omega, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. This is the Coronation of the King.

2. The Cross of the King.

Before Palm Sunday came, Jesus told his disciples how he would suffer. That He would be killed but would rise on the 3rd day. He said He would not be made king but a sacrifice for all the world. Nicodemus was told by Jesus.

John 3:14-16: “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up. Then who believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life”.

The important teaching that came from the lips of Jesus is that God loves you and He loves me.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth His love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

3 - The Communion of the King.

The disciples were warned about what was about to happen. They met in the upper room where Jesus was betrayed by one of His own. Jesus predicted his betrayal. While they were eating Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying “take and eat, this is my body”. Then they took the cup and gave thank and offered it to them saying “this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for may for forgiveness of sins. (Matt 26:26-29) Then He says for as often as you eat this remember me.

Jesus did not say how often we are to do it just that we are to remember Him when we do.

4 - The Condensation of the King.

We see Him surrounded by people here, and we see Him coming down from the Mount of Olives weeping. He wept, his heart was broken because they were cheering for Him here, but were about to betray him.

You and I are to take on that same humility.

Phil 2:8 Paul wrote: "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross".

Jesus taught us that the way to live is to die. That He is the example for you and I. The Bible teaches that we are to humble ourselves. We are not to be proud or boastful but to be humble. It is the first of the seven deadly sins but it is the source of the other 6.

As we look at ourselves, here at ARBC, where are you, are we working for your glory or His? We should sing in our hearts Hallelujah, what a savior.

5 - The Conquest of the King.

In Matthew 16:21 Jesus made it clear that not only would He die upon a cross but He would triumph over the tomb. It is the resurrection of Christ that makes Christianity different. Only Christians can say our founder is not in a tomb somewhere, but He lives forevermore!

Buddha and Mohammed are both dead and buried.

Jesus was buried and on the third day he rose again from the dead. He knew all the sin of the world would be put on Him. When He died on the cross, hell had a holiday. When He said "It is finished" demons celebrated. When he rose from the dead horror must have filled their hearts.

Jesus is the Master of masters, hero of heroes, warrior of warriors, king of kings and Lord of lords.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 – "I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed; in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true; death has been swallowed up in victory." The victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lastly, the reason for Palm Sunday is

VI. The Coming of the King.

Last night I got home about 1:00 in the morning, and thought we should sing "The king is coming".

We have His word that He is coming again. But no one knows the day or the hour that Jesus will return. Jesus doesn't even know. We have people here that say they can predict the time. But in Matthew 24:36-44 says: "No one knows the day or hour".

36: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37: But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38: For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39: and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40: Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41: Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42: Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Be alert be ready church. Then He says this;

43: But know this that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44: Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

God's word tells us we do not know the day or the hour. Not even Jesus knows.

He is coming again, we celebrate Palm Sunday today and what starts off as a glorious week ends Friday. But thank God, Sunday is coming.

I ask you today just as God's word says, if you knew that the thief is coming would you stay home? Have you recognized your need of Him to take your life? He is the only one that can save you.

Some of you may need to rededicate your life; you may say Jesus is coming today so maybe I need to make that decision.

Others may say, I need to nail my membership down here at ARBC.

Whatever your decision is just surrender unto Him. May God have His way.

Father may you have your will and your way. May people repent and turn to you today.

As Dave sings, please make your way down here to the front.

(Singing...words on large overhead screen)

Pastor Tim: People are surrendering their lives today. Come and surrender yours.

(Music playing)

The invitation is still open. You can make an altar right where you are and pray to God.

Amen, thank you church you may be seated.

I pray that you have a blessed week, it was wonderful to hear prayers from people that want to recommit to Christ.

Please come back at 6:00 tonight, we look forward to having fellowship together. Be sure and bring a guest next week. It will be a wonderful time to celebrate. I think Dave, the orchestra, and choir are doing a great job. I want Clint and Curt to stand with us outside. Brother Ron, please pray for us.

Heavenly Father we come to you and thank you for this day, we thank you that you are who you are and never changing. The cross is eternal, and as we go out today let us take the Lord Jesus Christ out into the world. There is love, and compassion. We are honored and grateful to you. In Jesus name, Amen.

Bells - (music playing)