

Palm Sunday

Pastor Sean Kelly

March 20, 2005

"Fresh Palms for Fresh Eyes"

John 12: 12-19

"Hosanna!" – An expression of praise which means "Save, I pray!"

Procession of Praise

- The use of palms branches signified **celebration of victory**.

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

– Revelation 7: 9

"On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days."

– Leviticus 23:40

- Previous to this event, Jesus **avoided the spotlight**.

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

– John 2:4

'Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

– John 12:23

- The procession didn't reveal his **majesty** as much as it revealed his **character**. It wasn't about **him**, it was about **us**.

Prospect of Prophecy

- The **crowd** misunderstood prophecy of the Messiah.

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey..."
– Zechariah 9:9

- The **disciples** misunderstood prophecy of the Messiah.

"At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him."
– John 12:16

- The **high priest** misunderstood his own prophecy!

"Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, 'You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.' He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life."
– John 11: 49 - 53

Prodigy of Peace

- There is irony in the **statement** of the **Pharisees** (vs 19)

"So the Pharisees said to one another, 'See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!'" – John 12: 19

- There is irony in the **peace method** entrance into Jerusalem and the **warlike method** of execution.
- There is irony in the **procession of praise** today and the **procession of death** on Friday.

READING PLAN:

Complete Track

Monday - Job 22-24; Psalm 73

Tuesday - Job 25-28

Wednesday - Job 29-31; Psalm 74

Thursday - Job 32-34

Friday - Job 35-37; Psalm 75

Weekend - Job 38-42

Fast Track

Catch up week