

Life in His Name – Part 29
See Your King - John 12:12-19
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Oct.1st, 2023

Intro:

- If you have been with us for a while, hopefully, you will remember the aim of the whole book of John is that **“these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31 ESV)**. We are going to continue to use this lens to view every passage to see and understand the true identity of Jesus and that we would believe in Him and have life in His name. Every passage we read in this book reveals these things to us.
- If you are a church-going person, our passage this morning will be familiar to you. The passage is often cited on Palm Sunday, where we regularly have kids come up during a song and wave palm branches. This “Palm Sunday” passage is so much more than a celebration with waving palm branches; it is a declaration of the identity of the one true King. From this passage, we are going to learn more about Jesus, and we are also going to learn what this means for us who believe in Him. This message should provide further clarity, encouragement, and hope to continue to follow Jesus and give your life to follow Him.
- If you remember from last week, the city of Jerusalem was anxious with anticipation for the arrival of Jesus for the Passover festival. They wondered if He was going to arrive at all. And if He did, what would He say or do, and how would people and religious leaders respond to Him? This was not ordinary Passover for the crowds gathered. It could be the moment that everything would change. And change it did, but not in a way most of them hoped or expected.

John 12:12-16 NIV

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 15 “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

16 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 these things had been done to him.

- To our modern ears, this doesn’t make much sense. What is the deal with the palm branches and the “Hosanna-ing,” and why is Jesus riding on a young donkey? Was He tired, or hurt, or trying to show off or something? Even His disciples who were there did not understand all this, but later on, after Jesus had been glorified, they realized what this was all about. Verse sixteen gives us a massive clue to help us understand – “these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.”
- So, we have to look back and see what was quoted and written about Him, what this says about His identity, and how this relates to us. The first phrase **“Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”** is a quote from Psalm 118.

- Psalm 118 is a “messianic psalm” that praises, cries out to, and describes the Messiah. The Psalm starts out with “**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever**” (Ps 118:1 NIV). It then describes how the Lord helped move the person from a tight place to a spacious one, from being afraid to being triumphant, from being a victim to a victor, from being attacked and consumed to being saved because the Lord is his strength.
- The Psalm then continues to say the Lord is the gate through which the righteous may enter, and the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, that the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in their eyes. And then this Psalm ends with these words:

Ps 118:25 NIV

Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!

- This is where the word “Hosanna” comes from, which initially meant “save please” and came to mean at that time “Hooray for salvation! It’s coming! It’s here! Salvation! Salvation!” And then verse 26 is directly quoted:

Ps 118:26 NIV

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

- Now, in quoting this Psalm in reference to Jesus with palm branches waving in the air, they were enacting and fulfilling and applying this whole Psalm to Jesus and check out what the next verse says:

Ps 118:27 NIV

The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

- So, this is my first main point, what does the fulfillment of this event say about Jesus?

Jesus is God, and we are children of the light

- The Lord is God, and Jesus is the Lord, so He is God. He is “the light of the world,” and His light has shined on us. That those who call out to the Lord in their darkness and distress, He will shine His light on them and deliver them, strengthen them, and lift them up in salvation. Jesus and John use this imagery of “light” and “walking in the light” to describe Jesus and those who follow after Him . . .
- Also, notice in this verse - where was the “festal procession” heading? Up to the horns of the altar, up to the place of sacrifice and atonement. Up to the place where Jesus was glorified in His Love and perfection and would draw all men to Himself. (We will see this next week).
- All those who cry out for salvation to Jesus, who is the Lord God, will be saved, helped, and delivered. And we can sing with the conclusion of this Psalm:

Ps 118:28-29 NIV

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

- Now, the next thing that happens is Jesus finds a young donkey and road into the city on it. He was not tired of walking, nor wanted to make a spectacle of Himself, and He did so to fulfill

another messianic prophecy, which was recorded in Zechariah chapter nine, in which John recorded, **“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”** So, if this passage was also written about Jesus, what does it say?

- This section’s start was read for us this morning, and it records this quote.

Zech 9:9 NIV

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.

- What this says is when the people of Jerusalem see one coming to them, the one that is righteous, victorious, and lowly riding on a young donkey, this is your King, this is the one that you were waiting for, this is the Messiah. Jesus intentionally rode into the city on a young donkey, communicating His identity that He was indeed the long-awaited Christ.
- The Zechariah passage continues by saying this king will proclaim peace to the nations and will rule to the ends of the earth. And this peace will be established by the blood of His covenant. Freeing them as prisoners of Hell, to being in His care as prisoners of hope until He comes again to restore both heaven and earth back to them (Zech 9:10-12).
- This passage then is connected and concluded by saying:

Zech 9:16-17 NIV

The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. 17 How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women.

- This passage, like Psalm 118, identifies the Lord as God. By riding into Jerusalem on a young donkey, he says that He is Lord who is God. And He is as a shepherd who saves His flock (sound familiar? – John 10). And those who are His flock will “sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown, how attractive and beautiful they will be!” This is our second point:

Jesus is God, and we are jewels in His crown

- Jesus not only did God's works, He spoke God's words and claimed the title of God, and He claimed and fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies by the sovereign hand of the Father arranged hearts and circumstances according to His plan. This Lord, who is God, established a covenant in His blood to save His people from their sins and will make peace in the world and restore heaven and earth. And those of His flock, His people, the prisoners of hope, are the jewels in His crown, beautiful beyond imagination! For those who are in Christ, this is your final destiny! Take courage, continue to live in Christ, and your hope will be fully and eternally rewarded.
- This entry into Jerusalem said volumes about who Jesus is. It is important for us to know what is being communicated. It was so important and such a huge statement this event is recorded in all four gospels.
- The last section of our passage in John continues to move the story forward and, connects us to the passage for next week, and makes a point to include the reign and salvation of the Messiah beyond the Jewish nation to encompass the whole world.

John 12:17-19 NIV

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

Jesus is God, and the whole world has gone after Him

- Jesus is indeed God, and because of who Jesus is and what He has done, the message of Jesus continues to spread, and people share His story in their lives and the lives of others. This message is for the whole world, and it is for everyone, everywhere, including you and all who receive Him. He gives them the right to become children of God. Jesus is not just a localized deity of the Jewish nation. He is the Lord of the World and draws all men to himself, freeing people from their enemies – which is sin and death and all that opposes Christ, making us prisoners of Hope and Children of the light.
- This message is for the whole world, and we have a part in His story. Let’s continue to share the message of Christ to all nations.

Conclusion

- Jesus’ “triumphal entry” is a really big deal. Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Welcome Him into your life and give your life to follow Him. Jesus is God, and those who call on Him for salvation, His light will shine on you and change you into a child of the light. Jesus is God and those who are prisoners of hope and the sparkling jewels in His crown. Jesus is God; the whole world has gone after Him, and we have the privilege of bringing His message to the nations.