

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Fixing Our Eyes - Part 9 Palm Sunday

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Introduction

The Sunday before Easter is commonly known as Palm Sunday, to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a colt, at which people waved palm leaves and cast their garments. This was the first time Jesus was publicly acknowledged as the Messiah, much to the disdain of the Pharisees, in fulfilment of the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9-12. While Jesus makes an entrance as the King, we note his attitude of humility and passion. He is worthy of honour and praise. How may we reflect and respond to this significant occasion?

Read: Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19, Matthew 21:1-11

Discuss

1. If you were there when Jesus was riding into Jerusalem, what would your reaction be? What questions would be going through your mind?
2. Read Philippians 2:7-8. The triumphant entry acknowledges Jesus as King and Messiah, yet, how did He display incredible humility in His mission and ministry? How can we follow this example?
3. Jesus is worthy of our exuberant praise; even "rocks will cry out" in acknowledgement of Him. Why are many Christians today reserved in their expression of praise, yet able to express exuberance when their team wins? How are we encouraged to express praise to God? (Refer to Psalms 148, 149, 150.)
4. Read Psalms 28:2, 63:4, 141:2. Why is the lifting of hands a particularly significant expression of praise and worship? Is this merely a matter of 'personal expression'?

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5. Why did Jesus weep as He approached Jerusalem? Refer also to Matthew 23:37-39. What drives your passion for God? How do you keep that passion alive?

Respond

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is significant as it demonstrates His humility and passion. Which of these do you find the most inspiring or challenging? What change will you make in your life this week to grow in one of these areas?