

“Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess---The Message in the Mess”

Philippians 1:6 (NIV), Colossians 3:12-17

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<https://www.sermonspice.com/product/66507/hosanna-palm-sunday-worship-intro>

Jesus we worship you!!! Cry out to Him! Contain your praise no longer! Rejoice greatly! Shout for joy! For your king comes *to* you. Your king comes **FOR** you. Righteous and victorious. Glory in the highest. Hosanna!

They may have told Jesus, “Quiet your people down,” but we have a message that we can’t keep quiet about. This is the beginning of Holy Week. This is Palm Sunday.

The story of Palm Sunday is told in all 4 Gospels (Mt. 21, Mark 11, Lk. 19, John 12) Each has phrases with exclamation marks.

The first is **“Hosanna to the son of David!”** Hosanna literally means “save us.” Now if you were in physical danger and needed help, needed to be saved wouldn’t you cry out? Huh, huh, huh. Today we would yell 9-11. Back in that day the Romans yelled, IX, I, I. ☺ But spiritually there is an emergency and we should cry out, “Hosanna”, that is Save Us! Son of David was the commonly used phrase of that day to refer to the coming of the Messiah. The Promised one who was to come to save the world. The One whose kingdom the people were waiting for.

The second statement is, **“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”** This is a direct quote from Psalm 118:26. Prophecy is again being fulfilled.

The third statement is **“Hosanna in the highest!”** Hosanna to the Son of David! ----
EXCLAMATION MARK. “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
EXCLAMATION MARK. Hosanna in the highest! EXCLAMATION MARK. 3 excited, enthusiastic, explanations, and exclamations.

Go back with me in your mind to Christmas. I love Christmas! (Exclamation mark) But, you see without the realization of follow through from Christmas to Easter we don’t get the full story. The message is not complete.

At Christmas the shepherds were out in their fields when the angels appear to them and say, “Glory to God in the...highest.” Here Jesus’ work is just about complete and it is said, “Hosanna in the...highest.”

Holy Week, Passion Week, for Jesus was to some degree a mess. We will take a look at that this morning. We will discover that in the week that Jesus faced there was a message in the mess.

A man took his car to the mechanic. He said, “There’s something wrong. I don’t have any lights.” The mechanic suggested, “It’s probably the battery that’s dead.” “No,” the customer said.

“My horn still blows; it can’t be the battery.” The mechanic replied, “It still might be the battery because it takes more power to give light than it does to blow a horn.”

In other words---It’s easier to toot than it is to shine. Are you with me? XXXX It is easier to say than to do.

“It’s not just excited, enthusiastic, explanations, and exclamations. “Hosanna to the son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!” It is what do, it is who we are in our very being that speaks the loudest.

Jesus faced a mess on that Palm Sunday. The mess of the crowds. The mess of those yelling “Save Us! (Hosanna) who perhaps didn’t really catch the significance of what they were saying. Chaotic confusion perhaps. A mess. Jesus overlooks Jerusalem and it says Jesus sees the city and weeps. Only twice in the Gospels does it say Jesus cries. He cries at the grave of His dear friend Lazarus, and He cries looking at the Holy City.

Maybe, just maybe realizes the mess that will be taking place this week. People yelling “Hosanna!” And by the end of the week some people will be yelling “Crucify Him!” And he weeps. He weeps in that one of His handpicked disciples would betray Him. Caiaphas, the high priest would conspire with Pilate the Roman governor, to bring about His crucifixion. Maybe He even sees ahead 40 years to the year 70 AD when the city of Jerusalem at the hands of Emperor Titus and the Roman legions destroyed the Holy City along with the death of over 1million residents. And Jesus wept.

Jesus’ ministry was almost over. He had proclaimed the Kingdom of God, He had healed the sick, fed the hungry, forgiven sins---and for the most part He had been rejected. What a mess. And Jesus wept.

And yet prophecy was being fulfilled. **Zechariah 9:9 New International Version (NIV)**
⁹ ...See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Good work was going to be carried out to its completion. Just as the Philippians 1 passage that was read says that about us... “be confident...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...”

The word of this prophecy in Zechariah is echoed in Colossians as we are encouraged to be like Jesus. Jesus the King of King and Lord of Lords comes lowly and riding on a donkey.

Colossians 3:12 New International Version (NIV)¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Certainly, as Jesus entered this “Triumphal Entry” victorious and righteous, yet lowly and riding on a donkey clothed Himself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We are to follow Christ’s example. How we doing with that compassion factor? The kindness connection? And what about humility, gentleness and let’s hurry up with patience.

And yet the message in this mess was that Jesus set His eyes towards Jerusalem and what was ahead of Him and did not turn back.

On this mess of a week Jesus encountered Holy Thursday and the Last Supper. It is often called “Maundy Thursday.” Maundy comes from the Latin word “mandatum” which means commandment. In the passage of the Last Supper when Jesus was in the Upper Room, Jesus washed the disciple’s feet and at Jesus says **John 13:34 New International Version (NIV)**
³⁴ **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** It is here that we find that “new commandment,” that mandatum. Not just to love, but the newness of loving as Jesus loved. Wowzers. How did Jesus love? He washed others feet. He would end up giving His life.

On Thursday from 6-8 at White Chapel downtown Palm Harbor, we will have a Holy Thursday experience that will conclude with Holy Communion. It will take about 20 minutes to go through and through the senses. It’s a come and go event. This experience is for all. Special items for children to be included in this family event.

Reminiscent of our Colossians passage we are reminded to: **Colossians 3: 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.** Yes, to do this as Jesus did. He was our example. In the mess of this Holy Week there is a message.

Jesus left the Upper Room and went to pray. Praying on the Mount of Olives He surrendered and laid down his life as He prayed, “not my will, but yours be done.” Scripture says He was in anguish that his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:44)

Keeping with the theme of Mess could we go as far as to say that emotionally Jesus was a mess, struggling with doing His father’s will. Side note, ever been in a mess when you’ve been trying to figure out the Father’s will? XXXX

But Jesus prayed, and there was peace. Such peace that in the Garden of Gethsemane when He was arrested, He could have called for angels to defend Him. But that was not the message that was needed at the time. May as our scripture read this morning said, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Now that’s a message in the Mess.

On Good Friday, we find Jesus in a mess physically as we beaten, whipped and made to carry a cross. Remind you of our noon follow the cross event on Belcher Road, and our Good Friday Worship Service at 6:30 on Friday. We will conclude our sermon series, Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess with a Mess at the Good Friday service simply entitled, “Redemption.”

What a mess that Good Friday was. But there was a Message in the Mess. The message was about God’s love for you. God loved you “this much.” (**image**)

Restored, Finding Redemption in our mess. That is why Jesus came. He did not come for partial restoration, but for full redemption and full restoration. The message to you in your mess is that through sanctifying grace you can be wholly holy. Set apart. Jesus did not experience this Holy Week and the mess that it was for no purpose. His purpose was to fully restore you.

Rev. Tom Berlin says, “If we’re intimidated by the idea of full restoration, what are our other options? What percentage of God’s image would we choose? Do we want 25% of God’s love? Would 42% be enough? Or 61%? Does 78% sound too lofty? And if we are 78% sanctified, what would be in the unsanctified, unloving 22% of our souls? Would one person get that unsanctified part of us, or would we let everyone enjoy that equally?” (Tom Berlin, p. 121, Restored, Finding Redemption in Our Mess, Abingdon 2016)

You are loved right here, right now, but with God’s help you can have and become so much more that you are right now. (Berlin p.113)

Jesus went through a Mess to bring you a message. A message of hope. A message of love. A message of restoration. A message of redemption.

Oh, today on Palm Sunday we shout with exclamation marks: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!” That’s what we do today, but tomorrow is a different day.

Two donkeys (**image**) were walking down the road in Jerusalem one day. One of the donkeys said, "Wow, Yesterday I was carrying Jesus on my back, people were encouraging me, screaming and shouting, Hosanna! Hosanna!!

People even put their clothes on the ground for me to walk on, and those who did not have any clothes to lay down put down palm leaves down for me to walk on. But today, when I walked through the same road, nobody recognizes me, and no one even said anything to me."

The second donkey smiled and said, "Hmmmmmm.... Don't you know that you are nothing without Jesus?"

Ah friends, Jesus made the greatest sacrifice. What sacrifice do you bring to Jesus here during this Holy Week? Without Jesus you are nothing.

Psalm 51:17 New International Version (NIV)¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart. you, God, will not despise.

With this heart open wide, I will bring a sacrifice. A sacrifice of my heart. I lay me down. I'm not my own. Not my will, but your will be done. Your will. Your way. The message in the mess is there is no real life apart from Jesus. I want to belong to Jesus alone.

I want to not just go through the motions. Not just to say things to say things. But to mean it when I say: "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"