

5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into <u>the sermon from this weekend</u>. Each day, we will reflect on key themes that emerged, explore relevant scriptures, and engage in personal reflection as we seek to grow in our faith.

Day 1

Matthew 21:1-11

1When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, 2 telling them, "Go into the village ahead of you. At once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them at once."

4 This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

5 Tell Daughter Zion,

"See, your King is coming to you,

gentle, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt,

the foal of a donkey."[a]

6 The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt; then they laid their clothes on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. 9 Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted:

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name

of the Lord![b]

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marks a pivotal moment in the Holy Week narrative. As He rides with humility on a donkey, it is a declaration of peace and fulfillment of prophecy. This day invites us to reflect on our own lives—what does it mean to acknowledge Jesus as our King?

Palm Sunday is not only about the celebration with palm branches, but it is also a call for us to lay down our expectations and submit to His greater plan for our lives. Just as the crowds cried out for deliverance, we too must recognize our need for Jesus' intervention in our lives, embracing the peace He brings.

As we enter into this week, let us consider the significance of our cries for help and how they connect to our daily lives. Are we seeking salvation for ourselves only in our circumstances, or are we recognizing the deeper need for peace within our souls? Jesus offers us a new life, one that transforms our hearts and minds, inviting us into a relationship with Him.

- What areas of my life am I seeking deliverance from?
- How can I acknowledge and submit to Jesus as my King today?
- In what ways can I embrace the peace Jesus offers amidst my struggles?
- Pray for clarity on the areas in your life needing Jesus' deliverance.
- Ask God to help you submit to His will and recognize His sovereignty.
- Reflect on moments of peace you've experienced and thank God for those times.

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Day 2

John 12:12-13

12 The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They kept shouting: "Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord[a]—the King of Israel!"

The waving of palm branches on Palm Sunday represents not just a welcome, but a deep-rooted desire for deliverance. The historical context of these palms serves as a reminder of a call for freedom from oppression. Today, we may find ourselves in situations that feel confining or overwhelming. It's essential to remember that true deliverance comes through Jesus, who sets us free from sin and despair.

This day encourages us to examine what oppresses us—be it fear, shame, or doubt. As we reflect on the symbolism of the palms, let us invite Jesus into our current battles, seeking His help to proclaim victory in our lives. Trust in His ability to provide deliverance means surrendering our struggles to Him and embracing His strength to overcome.

- What burdens do I need to lay down before Jesus today?
- How can I actively seek Jesus as my deliverer in challenging situations?

- In what ways can I demonstrate my trust in His plan for my life?
- Pray for the courage to lay down your burdens at Jesus' feet.
- Ask for strength as you confront any areas of oppression in your life.
- Thank God for the promise of deliverance in Christ.

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Day 3

Matthew 21:8-9

8 A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. 9 Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted:

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord![b] Hosanna in the highest heaven!

As Jesus approached Jerusalem, the crowds laid their cloaks on the ground as a sign of submission and worship. This act symbolized a recognition of His authority and a willingness to honor Him above all else. Day three of our devotional challenges us to consider what we lay down at the feet of Jesus. Are we willing to submit our identities, ambitions, and desires to Him, recognizing His lordship in our lives?

Our daily choices reflect our allegiance to various rulers, be it societal standards or material possessions. This encounter with Jesus on Palm Sunday beckons us to rethink who or what we truly serve. In submitting to Christ, we find a greater purpose and fulfillment than any worldly leader could provide. Let us embrace a life that worships in spirit and truth, yielding to His path for each of us.

- What are the cloaks in my life that I need to lay down for Jesus?
- How can I prioritize my worship towards Christ in my daily life?
- What does it mean to submit to Jesus as my true King?
- Pray for the humility to recognize areas where you need to submit to Jesus.
- Ask God for guidance in making Him the center of your worship.
- Reflect on the joy that comes from surrendering to the King.

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Day 4

Zechariah 9:9
9Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem!
Look, your King is coming to you;
he is righteous and victorious,[a]
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The prophecy of Zechariah highlights the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. It is a powerful message of peace in a time when the world often seeks power through might. This day of reflection allows us to consider how Jesus represents peace in our lives. Are we willing to embrace His peace amidst our chaotic circumstances?

In a world rife with conflict and uncertainty, we must remember that our true peace comes not from external situations but from a relationship with Jesus. Acknowledging Him as the Prince of Peace reminds us to seek His presence in our hearts and minds. As we meditate on this theme, let us invite the peace of Christ to govern our thoughts, emotions, and reactions in every situation we face.

- In what areas of my life do I need to invite Jesus' peace?
- How can I cultivate peace within my relationships with others?
- What steps can I take to be a peacemaker in my community?
- Pray for peace in parts of your life that feel tumultuous.
- Ask God to help you become a vessel of peace for those around you.
- Reflect on the peace you have experienced and where it came from.

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Day 5

Matthew 21:10-11

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The people cried out "Hosanna!" acknowledging their need for salvation. This word signifies a deep plea for rescue and help. On the fifth day of our devotional, we are invited to consider the depth of our need for salvation and how it connects to our everyday lives. Are we genuinely seeking Jesus as our Savior, not just for our circumstances but for our souls?

As we reflect on the cries of the crowd, we too must acknowledge our longing for a Savior who redeems and restores. Our salvation is rooted in Jesus' sacrificial love and grace. This realization should inspire us to share the good news with others, embodying the very message of hope we have received. Let us not only cry out for help but also respond to the call to share that salvation with the lost and hurting around us.

- How does my understanding of salvation influence my daily life?
- Who in my life can I share the hope of Jesus with?
- In what ways can I contribute to the message of salvation in my community?
- Pray for those in your life who are seeking salvation through Christ.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith with others.
- Reflect on the power of Jesus' sacrifice and what it means for you.

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